



News for Neighborhoods

A newsletter for gwinnettcountry homeowners

March 19, 2014

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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 emails and by talking to your friends and family.

What's new on TVgwinnett?



Gwinnett County brings you the latest news and happenings about your community through Eye on Gwinnett, our bi-weekly news program.

What you'll see in this episode:

- Volunteer Gwinnett hits a million hours
- Listening sessions continue in District 2
- Gwinnett Police graduate new officers
- Unified Development Ordinance approved

Reduce your tax bill: apply for homestead exemptions

The best way to reduce your property tax bill is to apply for homestead exemptions. 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 for which application is being made. **Applications for 2014 exemptions will not be accepted after April 1.**



You may apply online or contact the Tax Commissioner's Property Tax Department for an application. If you mail the completed application, please use 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 tax exemptions available and the eligibility requirements, visit www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com or contact the Tax Commissioner's Office at tax@gwinnettcountry.com or 770.822.8800.

Live Healthy Gwinnett takes aim at improving the health of residents

Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation in partnership with Eastside



Medical Center, announced the formation of **Live Healthy Gwinnett**. This program was created to encourage Gwinnett residents to invest in personal wellness.

Live Healthy Gwinnett combines clinical expertise from Eastside Medical Center physicians and staff along with wellness recommendations and activities offered by Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation. It focuses on four wellness areas: be active, eat healthy, get checked, and be positive. A POP-UP Park event will be held April 26, 2014, to launch the program. Visit www.livehealthygwinnett.com for more information.

Gwinnett Human Relations Commission hosts second Human Trafficking Forum: April 10

The Gwinnett Human Relations Commission will present a series of forums to raise awareness of human trafficking and how the community can help. Participants will learn what human trafficking is, how to identify it, what the underlying causes are, how to report it, and what our local and federal law enforcement, state legislators, and nonprofit support agencies are doing to combat this issue. The forums will present important information for parents, caregivers, educators, community leaders, and business owners.



The commission plans to host four forums, one in each commission district. The second forum will be held Thursday, April 10 from 7:00pm to 9:00pm at Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church, located at 1400 Killian Hill Road in Lilburn. For more information about this event or to register, please send an email to hrc@gwinnettcountry.com.

Reminder: Take the pledge during the Great American Cleanup Gwinnett Challenge

The Great American Cleanup Gwinnett Challenge is hosted locally by Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful from now until May 31, 2014.

It is open to businesses, local governments, school and church groups, civic groups, athletic teams, and individuals. Visit Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful's [website](#) to learn more about taking the pledge to be an environmental steward.



Once you have taken the pledge, you can choose from a list of projects or create a project and register it online with Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful. Projects must be completed by May 31, 2014. Once the project is completed, submit a post-project results form to be considered for recognition and prizes.

Environmental and Heritage Center hosts third annual local food festival



The local food movement continues to grow in popularity as people become more health conscious and aware of where their food originates. If you have a desire to grow your own food or lessen your impact on the environment by purchasing locally grown produce, eggs, and meat, visit the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center's third annual Grow Your Own - the Real Local Food Festival on Sunday, March 30 from 1:00pm to 5:00pm.

Local farmers and community gardeners will be on hand to provide information and instruction on growing edible and medicinal plants, cooking with locally grown ingredients as well as how to prepare your garden for the growing season. Vendors and participants will have honey, beeswax products, vegetables, herbs, breads, eggs, and other products for sale.

Kids' activities include chicken and bee crafts, face painting, worm composting discoveries, and different breeds of live chickens and chicks on display. A special Junior Master Gardener class, open to ages 5 to 12, will be from 2:00pm to 3:00pm and 4:00pm to 5:00pm. Pre-registration is required for the class and can be done at www.gwinnettEHC.org.

For more information about the festival, call the Environmental and Heritage Center at 770.904.3500 or visit www.gwinnettEHC.org.

District 2 town hall meetings: listening and learning with Lynette

District 2 Commissioner Lynette Howard is hosting town hall meetings to share an overview of what's going on in your county government. All meetings begin at 7:00pm. Please select the best date for you to attend.

The final two 2014 meetings are coming up soon:

April 21 at Five Forks Trickum Library, 2780 Five Forks Trickum Road in Lawrenceville

April 23 at Mountain Park Depot, 5050 Five Forks Trickum Road in Lilburn



Poll officials needed for elections

Poll officials play an active role in ensuring the ongoing success of the electoral process in Gwinnett County. The Voter Registrations and Elections Division would like to add more dedicated citizens to serve as paid poll officials for the 2014 elections.

Successful poll officials demonstrate patience, enjoy working with people, take direction well, and are detail oriented. Applicants must be a U.S. citizen and a resident of Gwinnett County, be at least 16 years old, and able to read, write, and speak English. Those who were convicted of a felony involving moral turpitude or judicially determined to be mentally incompetent are not eligible to serve as a poll official.

Poll officials must have transportation to and from the polling location and have access to a computer to complete online training; some officials may require additional training. All officials must report to their polls by 6:00am on Election Day and work the whole day, which is approximately 14 hours. Also, poll officials who plan to vote will need to vote absentee by mail or advance in person. When possible, poll officials are assigned to their home precinct; however if there no vacancies at the polling location, they will be asked to work at a different precinct.

Applications are available at www.gwinnettcountyjobs.com.

gwinnettcounty
Communications Division
770.822.7180
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