



April 15, 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!

Spring recycling event

Join us for a Spring Recycling Event on April 30 from 8:00am to noon. Bring your **household batteries and compact florescent light bulbs** to the Lowe's located at 3260 Lawrenceville Suwanee Road in Suwanee to be recycled.

For more information, visit www.sustainablegwinnett.com.



Residential property assessment notices are now available

Residential property assessment notices were mailed on April 15, so be sure to check your mailbox! The Georgia General Assembly passed legislation last year that requires the Tax Assessor to send all properties a notice of current assessment every year.

Property owners have 45 days from the date of the notice to file an appeal by using a new statewide uniform appeal form. Residential appeals are due before May 31 and may be submitted via U.S. mail or in person. Appeal information, interactive appeal forms and FAQs can be found on the Tax Assessor's web page at www.gwinnett-assessor.com.

To receive information on real property tax returns, update your e-mail newsletter profile at www.gwinnettcountry.com or by clicking on *Update Profile/E-mail Address* below.

Cooperative Extension to host annual plant sale

The Gwinnett County Cooperative Extension Service will host its Master Gardener Annual Plant Sale on Saturday, May 7 at Coolray Field, home of the Gwinnett Braves. The sale will begin at 9:30am in the stadium's parking lot.

Many items available for purchase include perennials, annuals, and yard art as well as vegetable, blueberry, raspberry, and blackberry plants.

For more information, visit the Master Gardener website at www.gwinnettmg.com or contact Gwinnett Cooperative Extension at 678.377.4010.



April Engage Gwinnett update

Engage Gwinnett is a citizen-led initiative comprised of representatives from 30 community stakeholder groups, 10 self-selected citizen leaders, and two chairmen who worked together to make informed recommendations to the Board of Commissioners about future service levels, funding needs, and revenue resources.

The members spent approximately six months looking at the community's needs for current and future government services and proposed funding strategies to pay for those services over the next five years. In April 2010, Engage Gwinnett presented its final recommendations to the Board of Commissioners. Since then, the County has considered all the recommendations and at this time, 65 have been completed and 40 are currently being acted upon.

To find out more about Engage Gwinnett and read the complete April 2011 update, visit www.engagegwinnett.com.



Gwinnett County celebrates National County Government Month

Gwinnett County is celebrating National County Government Month throughout the month of April to highlight county government programs and services. The theme for this year's celebration is **Serving Our Veterans, Armed Forces, and Their Families.**

[Click here](#) for a list of events that will be held throughout the month, including a supply drive for Georgia troops and tours of the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center and the Fallen Heroes Memorial.

National County Government Month is an annual celebration of county government. The National Association of Counties encourages counties to use this celebration to actively promote the services and programs they offer in addition to raising public awareness and understanding about the various services in their communities.



Police offers teen driving classes

The [Gwinnett Police Department's](#) crime prevention officers are offering the P.R.I.D.E. Program (Parents Reducing Injuries and Driver Error) safe driving classes to assist new drivers and their parents. The P.R.I.D.E. program is a **free, national award-winning**, two-hour course designed to educate teen drivers, ages 14 - 16. Officers do not conduct any behind the wheel training but help instruct parents and teens on what to expect during the 40 hours of supervised practice driving time required by Georgia Law and throughout their driving experience.

The next class will be held on April 25 at 6:30pm at the West Precinct, located at 6160 Crescent Drive in Norcross. To register, please call 770.417.2376 ext. 5720. Please register early; spaces are limited.

Rabies alert

A raccoon was recently found in the Northern Oak Drive area of Braselton that tested positive for rabies.

If you or someone you know has been bit or scratched by any stray animals or handled this raccoon, please call the Gwinnett County Animal Welfare and Enforcement Bite Office at 770.339.3200 ext. 5576.

What does a rabid animal look like?

Rabid animals may act tame or display strange or unusual behavior. They may act aggressive, avoid food and water, foam at the mouth, or have trouble moving. Stay away from any unknown animals, especially wildlife. Report any suspected rabid animal to [Gwinnett County Police Animal Welfare](#) and Enforcement at 770.513.5100.

How can I help protect myself and my family from rabies?

- Make sure your pets get their rabies shots regularly
- Keep your pets on your property
- Do not leave garbage or pet food outside. Food left out may attract wild or stray animals
- Stay away from wild, sick, hurt, or dead animals. Do not pick up or move sick or hurt animals. If you find a wild, sick, or hurt animal, call Gwinnett County Police Animal Welfare and Enforcement at 770.513.5100
- Do not keep wild animals like raccoons, skunks, foxes, and coyotes as pets. It is dangerous and also illegal
- Teach your children not to go near, tease, or play with wild animals or strange dogs and cats

Spring lawn care tips

As the weather begins to warm up, the warm season turfgrasses, which many Gwinnett residents have in their yard, are beginning to come out of winter dormancy and turn green. The period when the grasses come out of dormancy influences the health and quality of the lawn for the rest of the growing season. The [Gwinnett Cooperative Extension Service](#) encourages you to consider the following spring lawn care tips:

- Lawn grasses may have been weakened or killed in some areas from cold weather, so rake out the dead areas. Grass will fill in these areas, or you may have to reseed or sod. Excessive shade or poor drainage also will delay greening
- Aerating the soil with a hollow tine aerator will help relieve soil compaction and allow the grass to green. Wait until after the lawn has completely turned green and is actively growing to aerate
- As your lawn starts to turn green, reduce the mowing height to renew the turf. This will allow the soil to warm up and improve the penetration of air, water, and light. Make sure the mower blade has been sharpened prior to mowing

- Consider having your soil tested by the Gwinnett Cooperative Extension Service. For more information, call 678.377.4010
- To prevent damage that may occur from any late spring freezes, do not apply any fertilizer until the lawn has completely come out of dormancy. Apply a complete fertilizer such as a 10-10-10, 16-4-8, or some other turfgrass fertilizer according to the soil test's recommendations. Be sure to thoroughly water the lawn after application
- Pre-emergent herbicides control weeds as they emerge. Wait until the grass is green to apply them or you may end up killing your grass
- Post-emergent herbicides control weeds after they have germinated, so they may be applied to weeds during the spring growing phase since they do not injure or kill the grass

Actions taken during the period when the grass comes out of winter dormancy will influence how well your lawn does during the spring and summer months. With a little planning and these spring lawn care tips, your warm season lawn can be healthy, attractive, and the envy of your neighborhood.

gwinnettcounty
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