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April 12, 2013

In this issue:

Adopt a pet
Celebrate Earth Day
National County Government Month
Notice of assessments
Town Hall Meetings
Water your plants right
PGA Golf Tournament

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.



Meet Susie

Susie is a two-year-old shepherd mix who was found in the Lilburn area in February. She is part of the new Homeless Pet Clubs program and is currently sponsored by Girl Scout Troops 3497 and 2684 and the Camen Homeschoolers.

Susie has already been spayed and microchipped and has received her first round of vaccinations. She also tested negative for heartworm and can go to a loving home for only the \$30 adoption fee.

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



Celebrate Earth Day in Gwinnett County | April 13



Come celebrate Earth Day with the Gwinnett County Solid Waste and Recovered Materials Division on **Saturday, April 13** from **9:00am to 11:00am** at Coolray Field, home of the Gwinnett Braves.

This free event will feature paper shredding and electronics, tires, and paint collection (limit 5, one-gallon cans per vehicle;

no paint thinners, stains, spackle, oil paint cans, rusted paint cans, or dried-up paint). The event will also include kids' activities and the opportunity for residents to meet their haulers and learn about Gwinnett County's solid waste and recycling program.

For more information about this event, please call 770.822.7141 or [view the list of acceptable electronics](#).

Calling all volunteers!

Looking for some volunteer service hours? Come help out during the Earth Day event. Volunteers will be assigned to serve from 8:00am to noon. Visit www.volunteergwinnett.net to sign up for this event.

Gwinnett County celebrates public safety this April

Gwinnett County celebrates National County Government Month during the month of April to highlight county government programs and services to the public. We are observing this year's theme of **Smart Justice: Creating Safer Communities** with many free and fun events throughout the month of April. [View the attached flyer for events](#).

In addition, Gwinnett County offers many safety programs throughout the year:

CPR/AED Training

Free! Zero Response is an awareness campaign designed to equip Gwinnett County residents with the knowledge and understanding needed during a cardiac emergency. Responsible citizens using the lifesaving skills they have been taught will be able to provide immediate assistance, thereby creating the zero response timeframe. Learn how to administer CPR and use an AED. Gwinnett County Fire and Emergency Services Headquarters, 408 Hurricane Shoals Road in Lawrenceville. [Registration is required](#).

Operation ID

Protect your valuables! As part of the nationwide Operation ID program, the Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit has an engraving tool that residents can borrow to engrave their valuables. This helps police officers locate and return the valuables should they be stolen. To borrow the engraving tool, please call 770.513.5119.

Car seat checks

The Police Department offers free car seat checks; email pdcarseatchecks@gwinnettcountry.com to schedule.

Home safety checks

Want to make sure your home is safe? Crime Prevention officers will come to your home to conduct a residential security survey to see what areas can be improved to further secure your property. Contact Officer Eric Rooks at 770.513.5119 to schedule your home safety check.

Always report suspicious activity

If you notice any suspicious activity, please call the Police Department immediately at 911 or 770.513.5700. You play a large role in preventing crime in your neighborhood by seeing and reporting suspicious activity.



2013 assessment notices will not accurately reflect 2013 tax billing



The Gwinnett County Tax Assessor's office has begun issuing 2013 Notices of Current Assessment to residential and commercial property owners. The purpose of the assessment notice is to inform the

property owner of the appraised value of the property that will be used later in the year to bill ad valorem (property) taxes. Once you receive your assessment notice, be sure to review the current value; appeals must be filed within 45 days of the notice date. Instructions on how to appeal will be included on the notice.

Tax estimates based on prior year's millage rate, current assessed value

The assessment notice is not a tax bill. However, the notices will include estimates of 2013 property taxes that may not accurately reflect property taxes for property owners in Gwinnett County depending on where they live. State law requires counties to send a Notice of Current Assessment to every property owner annually whether or not the value of the property has changed. State law also requires the assessment to include an estimate of the ad valorem tax bill (property taxes) based on the prior year's millage rate and the current year's assessed value.

New service districts will change 2013 millage rates

Because the law requires the use of the prior year's millage rates, Gwinnett County's property tax estimates cannot reflect the new 2013 service districts that will substantially change how property taxes will be billed this year. As a result of the new service districts, your actual tax bill may be more or less than this estimate. For example, someone who owns property inside a city that provides its own police service will not see the reduction in County taxes associated with county police services reflected on this notice.

What will my millage rate be?

Commissioners will set the millage rate for property taxes this summer, after assessments and appeals are completed in the spring. A millage rate will be associated with each of the new service districts; rates will depend on a property's location, which determines what services are provided by the County. Property taxes will be billed in early August with payment due 60 days following the billing date.

For more information

For a detailed explanation of how service districts will affect service delivery and property taxes for services, including a brief video explanation, please visit www.gwinnettservicedistricts.com.

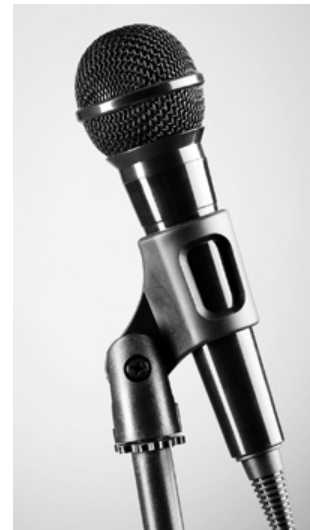
Commission hosts Town Hall Meetings around Gwinnett

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners is hosting a series of Town Hall Meetings in April and May. The evening begins with an open house at 6:15pm followed by questions and comments at 7:00pm. 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 will invite you to share your thoughts and ideas about County government services.

Tuesday, April 30 from 6:15pm - 8:30pm
George Pierce Park Community Center
55 Buford Highway in Suwanee

Wednesday, May 1 from 6:15pm - 8:30pm
Grayson High School
50 Hope Hollow Road in Loganville

Thursday, May 9 from 6:15pm - 8:30pm
Lucky Shoals Park Community Recreation Center
4651 Britt Road in Norcross



Are you watering your plants correctly?



Make sure you are watering your plants thoroughly and long enough to allow the water to penetrate deep into the soil. This encourages the development of an

extensive root system. Avoid brief, shallow applications of water since it only reaches the upper couple of inches of the soil and does not go down deep into the root zone. This will cause the roots to grow weak and shallow, which increases the plant's susceptibility to environmental stresses and pests. Use organic mulches throughout your landscape, such as pine straw or pine bark, to reduce the loss of water through evaporation.

For more landscaping tips, visit www.gwinnettextension.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.

gwinnettcounty
Communications Division
770.822.7180
www.gwinnettcounty.com

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Gwinnett County Communications | 75 Langley Drive | Lawrenceville | GA | 30046