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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.



#### Construction closes Pleasant Hill Road Bridge this weekend

The Gwinnett County Department of Transportation will close the I-85 at Pleasant Hill Road bridge for the Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI) crossover. The project involves shifting traffic to the opposite side of the bridge, which will make left turns onto the interstate easier and improve the flow of traffic across the bridge. The closure will begin at **9:00pm on Friday, June 7**, weather and conditions permitting. The bridge will open to traffic by **5:00am on Monday, June 10** with the new DDI configuration.



The bridge will be closed to all through-traffic during the weekend, although construction will not impact right turn access to or from I-85. Drivers and pedestrians should take the planned detour: Pleasant Hill Road to Satellite Boulevard to Steve Reynolds Boulevard to Shackelford Road to Pleasant Hill Road, and the reverse. Pedestrian traffic should continue to use the detour route for at least one month following crossover during the construction of pedestrian walkways.

After crossover, construction will continue on the center median and pedestrian facilities, while crews will finalize the signals, interchange lighting and pavement markings. The project is expected to be substantially complete in September, with landscaping to begin in the fall. Once the project is complete, the bridge at Pleasant Hill Road and I-85 will be Gwinnett County's first DDI and the second in Georgia.

To view a map of the detour route or for more information on how to drive the diamond including a video rendering of the completed project, visit [www.gwinnettDDI.com](http://www.gwinnettDDI.com).

## Meet Sir Scout



Sir Scout is a 5-year-old Labrador mix who was found in the Suwanee area in April. Sir Scout is currently in the Homeless Pet Clubs program and is looking for a castle to call his own!

Sir Scout is amazing around kids and has a gentle, royal demeanor, which is how he earned his name. He would be an excellent addition to any family and can go to a loving home for the \$30 adoption fee.

Sir Scout has already been neutered, vaccinated, and microchipped, and he tested negative for heartworm.

If you're looking for a friendly companion like Sir Scout to add to your household, visit the [Animal Welfare and Enforcement Center](#) at 884 Winder Highway in Lawrenceville or call 770.339.3200.

## Thanks from our furry friends in Oklahoma

A big thank you goes out to all those who contributed items to help pets displaced by the tornados in Moore, Oklahoma. With generous donations from Gwinnett residents and people all over Georgia, the Gwinnett County Animal Shelter's pet food and supply drive was a tremendous success! Donations filled two tractor-trailers with 17 tons of supplies for animals in need.



The County also raised more than \$1,100 in donations to be sent directly to the city of Moore Animal Shelter. Thanks again to all those who showed Gwinnett's spirit of giving!

## Pedestrian improvements coming to Gwinnett neighborhoods



Gwinnett pedestrians are getting new sidewalks in several neighborhoods around the county. One project will build sidewalks and bus shelter pads along Buford Highway between Simpson Circle and Duluth Industrial Way, and another installs sidewalks from the Gwinnett County Transit Park and Ride facility on Hewatt Road to U.S. 78 along Oakland Park Boulevard.

Three more sidewalk projects will be funded by the SPLOST program. Cruse Road will receive sidewalks from Sugarloaf Parkway to Old Norcross

Road, sidewalks will be added on Beaver Run Road between Rockborough Trail and Bailey Drive, and Peachtree Parkway/Route 141 will see new sidewalks between Holcomb Bridge Road and Woodhill Drive.

The Ivy Creek Greenway trail near the Mall of Georgia will also be growing this year to a total length of 4.4 miles. This year's extension will add a 270-foot cable bridge, overlook platform, and restrooms. Over half of the extension is paid for by the 2005 and 2009 SPLOST programs, with the remainder coming from state and federal grants.

## SPLOST special called meeting

On Tuesday, the Board of Commissioners held a public meeting with representatives from the cities about a possible 2014 SPLOST referendum. The SPLOST, or special purpose local option sales tax, is a one percent sales tax dedicated to capital improvements that was first approved by voters in 1985.

SPLOST programs have funded the construction of various projects across the county including roads, police and fire stations, libraries, and parks.

You can find out more about the SPLOST and how your pennies are at work in Gwinnett at [www.gwinnettSPLOST.com](http://www.gwinnettSPLOST.com).



### Experts predict active hurricane season: Are you ready?



The Atlantic hurricane season began June 1 and lasts until the end of November. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is predicting a very active hurricane season this year. Current forecasts call for 13 - 20 named storms, including several major hurricanes. Although the most intense part of hurricane season lasts from August through October, the time to prepare is now.

It may not seem like Gwinnett has much to worry about since we're far from the coast. Unfortunately, that's not the case. The threats from hurricanes,

including high winds, heavy rain, flooding, and tornadoes, can extend several hundred miles inland. In fact, drowning was the leading cause of death from Hurricane Sandy last fall.

While we may not be able to stop hurricanes or other natural disasters, we can be better prepared to prevent loss of life and property. Take some time this week to ensure that you are prepared for hurricane season. Visit the [Gwinnett, Newton, and Rockdale County Health Department's website](#) and the [National Hurricane Center's website](#) for tips on how to be prepared.

### 3 lawn mowing tips

Summer is here, so many of you are already spending more time playing in and working on your yard. Tim Daly from the Cooperative Extension Service has some advice on how to keep your lawn looking healthy and attractive all summer long:



1. **Keep your lawn mower blades sharp:** Dull blades will shred the grass making it more prone to water loss and disease, leaving the grass with an unsightly brown appearance.
2. **Only remove the top one-third of the grass blade:** A sudden reduction in height can damage the grass and make it more vulnerable to pests. If the grass gets too tall between mowings, increase the height of the cut and then gradually lower it to the recommended height for your type of grass.
3. **Let the grass clippings fall back onto the turf:** They will break down and release nutrients, reducing the need for fertilizer. Frequent mowing will prevent the clippings from forming a thatch layer and will keep your lawn healthy.

For more landscaping and gardening advice, visit the [Gwinnett County Cooperative Extension Service website](#).

## Gwinnett Fire 5 Alarm 5K

Gwinnett's firefighters are always running to the rescue. Now we have a chance to do the same for them. The Gwinnett Fire 5 Alarm 5K race will be held in Suwanee Towne Center Park on Saturday, **June 15 at 8:00am**. All proceeds will benefit the Gwinnett Fire Employees' Benevolent Fund, which serves Gwinnett Fire employees and their families in times of hardship.

Race registration costs \$25 and will remain open until the day of the race. Those not running can still register to receive a T-shirt and show their support. Registration is available online or by mail, and additional information can be found on the [5 Alarm 5K website](#).

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