

News for Neighborhoods

A newsletter for gwinnettcounty homeowners

June 8, 2012

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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 e-mails and by talking to your friends and family. Click on *forward this e-mail to a friend* below to share this newsletter!

Commissioners reject airport privatization proposal

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners moved to reject a public-private partnership for the lease, operation, and improvement of Gwinnett County Airport-Briscoe Field during its June 5 business session. The board also moved to withdraw the preliminary application to the Federal Aviation Administration's Airport Privatization Pilot Program. These actions cease all efforts for potential privatization and commercialization of the Briscoe Field airport.



For more information, visit the [Aviation](#) webpage.

Updates to County trash plan

Starting in January, about 15,000 seniors in unincorporated Gwinnett will get a 15 percent discount on trash service, and property owners with valid vacant structure or boarding up permits will be exempt from paying solid waste collection fees.

The senior discount applies to seniors 65 or older with an annual income below \$10,000 who have filed a senior homestead exemption, called an L3A, as well as those with incomes up to \$25,000 who qualify for a senior school exemption, or L5A. Disabled people with an L5A exemption also will qualify for the discount.

The law defines a vacant structure as unoccupied with no utility usage for 60 days, unfinished when the building permit expired, or being held subject to foreclosure proceedings. Vacant structure permits are valid for one year and are renewable.

The Gwinnett County Solid Waste and Recycling Division's call center staff can answer questions at 770.822.7141 weekdays or by e-mail at gcsolidwaste@gwinnettcounty.com.

Election year - Look for new voter ID cards

Registered voters in Gwinnett County will soon receive new precinct ID cards in the mail. Georgia law requires that counties issue new cards to notify voters when their political districts have changed. The County will begin mailing these cards on June 8.

The yellow cards will include the voter's polling location and all political districts for the residential address. Voters should keep these cards for their records. If the address shown on the card is incorrect, be sure to provide the correct address and send it to the Elections Office. The mailing address for the office is: Gwinnett County Voter Registration and Elections, 75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville, GA 30046.



If the cards are received by the voter registration deadline, a new precinct card will be issued with the updated information. Visit the Georgia Secretary of State's My Voter Page at www.sos.georgia.gov/MVP/Login.aspx to find your poll location, view your registration and absentee ballot request status, find early voting locations, and view sample ballots for upcoming elections.

2012 General Primary/Nonpartisan election

The 2012 General Primary/Nonpartisan election will take place on Tuesday, July 31. The deadline to register to vote and be eligible to cast a ballot in the election is Monday, July 2. Registered voters may request an absentee ballot by mail or cast their ballots in person from July 9 to July 27, Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm at the Elections Office, located at 455 Grayson Highway in Lawrenceville. Advance voting options will also be available for the election; visit www.gwinnettelelections.com for locations and dates.

4 tips for a healthy home

Americans spend more than 90 percent of their time indoors, so a home environment free of contaminants is important to our health. Below are four things you can do to improve your home's indoor air quality:



1. Test your home for Radon: This radioactive gas comes from the natural decay of uranium and can be found in nearly all soils. It typically moves through the ground and into your home through cracks and holes in the walls, floors, and foundation. Any home can have a high radon level. To learn more about testing your home, go to www.ugaradon.com
2. Keep indoor humidity below 60 percent: Excessive humidity can lead to mold growth, which can trigger asthma episodes in some sensitive individuals. Reduce the humidity in your home by using exhaust fans when bathing or cooking; vent the clothes dryer to the outside; and do not overwater houseplants. Purchase a humidistat to track the humidity level in your home
3. Reduce the use of synthetic air fresheners: Studies have shown that some plug-in air fresheners emit up to 20 volatile organic compounds (VOCs), including seven that are regulated as toxic or hazardous under federal laws. Synthetic fragrances can lead to respiratory problems for some individuals. To reduce VOCs in your home, use natural air fresheners, open the windows and let in fresh air in when possible, stop using aerosol sprays, and switch to green cleaning products
4. Make your home a no smoking area: Researchers have found that secondhand smoke increases a child's risk of asthma, cancer, sudden infant death syndrome, and ear and respiratory infections. The smoke from cigarettes contains more than 4,000 chemicals. Not allowing smoking indoors is the best way to reduce exposure to secondhand smoke

For more tips on improving your indoor environment, contact Ines Beltran with the [Cooperative Extension Service](#) at inesb@uga.edu or go to www.ugagreenway.com.

Improvements coming to Club Drive south of Gwinnett Place Mall

New sidewalks as well as curb, gutter, and road shoulder improvements are coming to Club Drive from Cruse Road to Club Drive Park. This work, funded by the 2009 SPLOST program, will fill in missing links in existing sidewalks.

A future project will add sidewalks from the park to Pleasant Hill Road, which is expected to be complete by the end of this year.

State Route 20 in Sugar Hill to be widened

The widening of State Route 20 in Sugar Hill is coming soon. "State Route 20 from Peachtree Industrial Boulevard to the Forsyth County line is the last remaining two-lane section of this heavily traveled road in Gwinnett," Gwinnett Transportation Director Kim Conroy said. "The County is buying right-of-way and easements from about 200 properties there, and we will manage the construction when it starts early next year."

A separate project will build a new four-lane bridge for State Route 20 over the Chattahoochee River to improve traffic flow between Sugar Hill and Cumming. Forsyth County is working with the state to widen the road on their side from James Burgess Road to Samples Road. Planners expect traffic to increase from 30,000 vehicles per day to 50,000 over the next 20 years.

In Gwinnett, State Route 20 runs from Sugar Hill past the Mall of Georgia through Lawrenceville, Grayson, and Loganville. Two recently opened projects in the Grayson area extended the widening to near the Walton County line.

Stay safe in the summer heat

It is known throughout Georgia that extreme heat comes with the arrival of summer. Temperatures during the season can easily reach 100 degrees and feel even hotter. High temperatures are not the only dangers associated with summer - too much sun exposure can be harmful to the body and very dangerous to senior citizens, children, and persons with asthma.

Some common heat-related emergencies are heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Signs and symptoms of heat exhaustion include rapid, shallow breathing; cold, clammy skin; heavy perspiration; weakness; and muscle cramps. Heat exhaustion can quickly turn into a heat stroke, which is characterized by a rapid, strong pulse followed by rapid weak pulse; dry, hot skin; dilated pupils; and possibly loss of consciousness.

If heat exhaustion or stroke symptoms are present, take precautions by calling 911, getting the person indoors or into shade, fan or mist the person, and hydrate them with cold water, avoiding alcoholic or sugary drinks.

Beat the heat

Gwinnett County [Fire and Emergency Services](#) offers the following tips for staying safe from the heat this summer:

- Stay hydrated during outdoor activities by drinking plenty of water
- Take a cool shower after outdoor activities or long exposure to the sun
- Wear lightweight, light-colored, and loose fitting clothes
- Use plenty of sunscreen
- Monitor weather conditions
- Limit outdoor activities to early morning or late evening

Veterans Retraining Assistance Program

The Veterans Retraining Assistance Program is reaching out to unemployed veterans who are 35 to 60 years old to provide education benefits. This limited opportunity will benefit up to 45,000 veterans through the end of September 2012. Applications will be accepted beginning May 15, 2012.

For more information, visit www.benefits.va.gov/VOW.

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