



June 22, 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!

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.gwinnettelections.com for locations and dates.



Transportation Investment Act Public Information Meetings

On July 31, residents across the 10-county Atlanta region including Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, and Rockdale counties have the opportunity to vote on a referendum that would fund \$8.5 billion in transportation improvements through a regional one percent sales tax.

If you want to learn more about the upcoming regional transportation sales tax vote, public information meetings will be held in different locations around Gwinnett County throughout the next several weeks.

The first meeting will be in conjunction with the city of Peachtree Corners on Monday, June 25 from 7:30pm - 8:30pm at Christ the King Lutheran Church, located at 5575 Peachtree Parkway in Norcross. Check the [County's website](#) for additional meeting dates and locations.

County offices closed, County pool and trash schedule for Independence Day

Please note that all offices, with the exception of those operations required for the comfort and safety of the citizens of Gwinnett County, will be closed Wednesday, July 4 in observance of the Independence Day holiday. All offices will resume regular working hours on Thursday, July 5.

Gwinnett County [pools](#) and the [Hudlow Tennis Center](#) will be open during normal hours on the July 4 holiday.

Haulers will follow the normal trash pickup schedule on Independence Day. The Gwinnett County

Solid Waste and Recycling Call Center will be closed that day, but hauler call centers will be open. Visit www.sustainablegwinnett.com to find your hauler's contact information.

Celebrate Independence Day

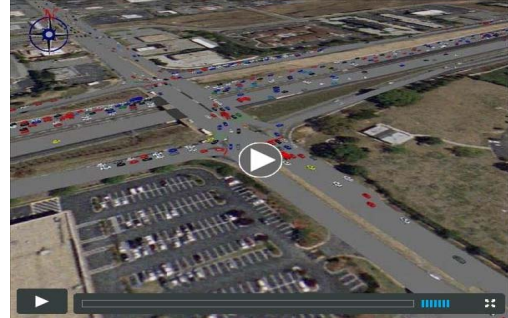
Many exciting, family-oriented Independence Day celebrations are taking place around Gwinnett County this year.

A full list of events is available at www.gwinnettcounty.com.



Diverging Diamond Interchange comes to Pleasant Hill Road

Gwinnett's first [diverging diamond intersection](#) won commission approval for construction to begin this summer on Pleasant Hill Road at I-85. The design uses the existing bridge more efficiently by switching traffic to the left to allow smooth left turns onto the interstate. Pedestrians will use a new walkway in the median. County officials estimate this SPLOST-funded project will extend the useful life of the existing bridge by about 10 years.



Watch the video to see a simulation of the new interchange - and stay tuned for construction updates as the project gets underway.

New law takes effect July 1, expands local jury pools

A major overhaul of Georgia's jury system, which will expand the local jury pool to include every citizen who legally is eligible, goes into effect July 1. According to Philip Boudewyns, Court Administrator, Gwinnett County, every County citizen who is at least 18 years old, votes, or has a driver's license or state issued identification card will be eligible for jury duty under the new law.

The Council of Superior Court Clerks will deliver each county's jury pool by July 1. Previously, Georgia was the only state remaining that required "forced balancing" of jury pools. This means that jury pools were created by local jury commissions in the state's 159 counties for the purpose of ensuring the pools were not skewed according to gender or race.

Under the new system, which is based on inclusion rather than exclusion, the list of prospective jurors will be compiled using the state's driver's license file in addition to the state's voter registry. This list will be certified as inclusive by the Council of Superior Court Clerks and distributed to each of the 159 jury commissions in Georgia.

Local jury clerks will then randomly draw names from that certified pool, thus assuring a representative sample of available jurors. The methodology currently used for selecting grand jurors also will change. [Read more.](#)

Commissioners approve road safety improvements

Gwinnett commissioners approved construction contracts for two SPLOST- and grant-funded transportation upgrades.

The intersection of Webb Gin House Road and Bennett Road will get a traffic light and left turn lanes over the summer. The same safety improvement contract will add a deceleration lane with a right turn lane along Grayson Parkway/State Route 84 at the intersection with Pinehurst Road. The work also includes curb and gutter and extending the existing sidewalks along Grayson Parkway. These improvements are being funded



by the SPLOST sales tax program.

Upgrades to Jimmy Carter Boulevard at Singleton Road will give a boost to pedestrian safety. The project will add turn lanes on three legs of the intersection along with improvements to sidewalks, curb and gutter, and retaining walls. Less than eight percent of the cost comes from local SPLOST funds while the Georgia Department of Transportation will pay 43 percent and the State Road and Tollway Authority will contribute almost 49 percent.

Firefighters suggest leaving fireworks to the professionals

Over the last few years, Georgia's laws regarding fireworks have changed and the following are now legal:

- Wire or wood sparklers using 100 grams or less of explosive chemicals
- Sparkling items, which are non-explosive and non-aerial and contain 75 grams or less of explosive material or a total of 200 grams or less for multiple items
- Snake and glow worms
- Trick noise makers, which include paper streamers, party poppers, string poppers, snappers, and drop pops consisting of 0.25 grams or less of explosive mixture

Although these types of fireworks are legal in Georgia, residents should use extreme caution to avoid injury during this year's Independence Day holiday celebrations.

According to a new report from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, approximately 200 injuries are reported daily in the month of July related to fireworks. On Independence Day, far more U.S. fires are reported than on any other day, and fireworks account for more than half of those fires, which means they could have been prevented.

[Gwinnett County Fire and Emergency Services](#) encourages you to attend a professional show instead of using fireworks yourself. If you are going to use fireworks, consider the following safety tips for using legal fireworks this holiday:

- Fireworks should only be used under adult supervision
- Always read and follow instructions printed on labels
- Only use fireworks outdoors
- Use fireworks in a clear, safe location away from homes and cars
- Be sure to have water handy
- Light one firework at a time
- Have a bucket of water and fire extinguisher nearby
- Submerge the spent fireworks in water for at least an hour before disposing of them
- Never re-ignite malfunctioning fireworks
- Never attempt to make your own fireworks
- Remember to call 911 in an emergency

Please note that the sale and use of most types of fireworks, including firecrackers, skyrocketers, and cherry bombs, are illegal in Georgia and punishable by a maximum fine of up to \$1,000 and up to one year in jail.

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