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July 5, 2013

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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.



Animal shelter hosts annual Adoption Explosion

The Gwinnett County Police Department's Animal Welfare and Enforcement Section has begun their 2nd Annual Adoption Explosion event, which will run through **Saturday, July 27**. During this event, the shelter will waive the adoption fees and reduce the veterinarian fees. The normal adoption fee of \$90 will be reduced to \$40 for dogs and puppies and \$30 for cats and kittens. If you wish to adopt two cats or kittens, the fee will be reduced to \$40 total for both. This fee includes the spay/neuter of each animal, a microchip, and the first round of shots.



The Adoption Explosion will end with a block party at the Animal Welfare and Enforcement Center on Saturday, July 27. The party will run from 10:00am to 3:00pm, with the shelter staying open until 4:00pm. Come out to enjoy a live DJ, the *Cars for Critters Mega Hot Road and Car Show*, inflatable jump houses and games for kids, a craft exhibit, and cookout. You can purchase hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, and non-alcoholic drinks during the party, and all proceeds from the cookout will benefit the Society of Humane Friends, the organization that is making this event possible.

For more information on the Animal Welfare and Enforcement Center and pets available for adoption, visit www.gwinnettanimalcontrol.com or call 770.339.3200.

Understanding Your County Government Property Taxes



The county government portion of your property tax bill will look different this year. To learn more about the County's new service districts and the associated millage rates, please join us for an informational session/public hearing where the Board of

Commissioners invites you to provide comments.

The last of three sessions will be held in the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center auditorium located at 75 Langley Drive in Lawrenceville. Please join us:

Tuesday, July 9 - 6:30pm

Commissioners also welcome online public comments about the proposed 2013 millage rates. Visit www.gwinnettcounty.com to share your thoughts. For more information about the service districts, including a brief video, and the 2013 proposed property tax rates, visit the [County's website](#). The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners will consider the property tax rates on Tuesday, July 16, 2013, at 2:00pm.

Resurfacing begins on SR 20 through Lawrenceville

The Georgia Department of Transportation began resurfacing State Route 20 in Lawrenceville on Monday, June 24, weather permitting. All lanes of SR 20 will be resurfaced in three segments: the first from Hurricane Shoals Road to SR 8/US 29, the second from SR 8/US 29 to SR 124, and the last from SR 124 to Plantation Boulevard.

Drivers should be prepared for intermittent lane closures on weeknights from 9:00pm to 6:00am and until 8:00am on Saturday and Sunday mornings. On-street parking spaces between SR 8 and SR 124 also will be resurfaced and may be blocked from use during the day while the second segment is being resurfaced.

This is the first time the road has been resurfaced since 1998. Once completed, commuters should expect a smoother ride along almost four miles of SR 20 in Lawrenceville. Resurfacing is expected to be finished by December 31, 2013. For more information, visit the [Georgia Department of Transportation's website](#).



Do you have leftover fireworks from Independence Day celebrations?



Store any leftover fireworks in a cool, dry place that is out of reach for small children and pets and away from open flames. When discarding used or unwanted fireworks, remember to soak them in a bucket of water for several hours before discarding them in the trash.

For additional fire safety tips, visit the Gwinnett Fire Community Risk Reduction website at www.gwinnettfiremarshal.com or contact the Community Risk Reduction Education Section at 678.518.4850.

Stay safe in severe weather

Gwinnett County Fire and Emergency Services and Gwinnett County Emergency Management encourage people to take necessary precautions and monitor local weather information during the threat for severe thunderstorms and potential tornadoes. Be sure to report any damage to public safety officials by calling 9-1-1 and avoid hazardous areas and wait for responders to arrive.

If thunder can be heard, you are close enough to the storm to be struck by lightning, and you should take



shelter immediately.

Take the following steps as a thunderstorm approaches:

- Seek shelter in a building or vehicle and keep windows closed.
- Avoid using electrical equipment/appliances and unplug things such as televisions, air conditioners, and computers.
- Do not take baths or showers during storms and use as little water as possible - water is an excellent conductor of electricity.
- Draw blinds and shades over windows to prevent windows shattering into your home, should they be broken by blowing debris.

If you are caught outdoors:

- Attempt to seek shelter in a vehicle or building.
- If no structure is available, stay as low to the ground as possible. In the woods, find a group of smaller trees. Avoid standing under single tall trees. Be aware of the potential for flooding in low-lying areas.
- Get as small as you can by crouching on your knees on the ground.
- Remember to avoid tall structures, such as towers, tall trees, fences, telephone lines, or power lines. Also avoid golf clubs, tractors, fishing rods, bicycles, and camping equipment. All are excellent electrical conductors.
- Stay away from all types of bodies of water. If you are boating or swimming, get to land and find shelter immediately.
- If you feel your hair stand on end, which indicates that lightning is about to strike, drop to your knees and bend forward, putting your hands on your knees. Do not lie flat on the ground.

If you are stuck in a vehicle:

- Find a safe place on the side of the road and pull over. Make sure there are not any trees that could blow over onto the car.
- Put on emergency flashers, especially during heavier rains.
- Remain in the car, only leaving in the case of a flash flood.
- Watch for possible flash flooding. Should you notice the beginnings of flooding, abandon your vehicle and seek higher ground immediately.
- Avoid flooded roadways.

If someone is struck by lightning:

- Call for help. Get someone to dial 9-1-1 to alert responders.
- Look for burn marks on the victim's body where the charge both entered and exited.
- Lightning strikes can also cause neurological damage, broken bones, and loss of sight or hearing.
- Give first aid. People who have been struck by lightning can be cared for safely and do not carry any type of electrical charge. If breathing has stopped, begin rescue breathing. If the heart has stopped beating, a trained person should give CPR. If the person has a pulse and is breathing, look for and care for other possible injuries.

gwinnettcounty
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