



July 6, 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!

Absentee ballots and satellite voting for the General Primary/Nonpartisan election

The 2012 General Primary/Nonpartisan election will take place on Tuesday, July 31. Registered voters may [request an absentee ballot](#) by mail or cast their ballot in person from July 9 to July 27, Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm at the Gwinnett County Elections Office, located at 455 Grayson Highway in Lawrenceville. Saturday voting will also be available at the elections office on July 21.

For the convenience of voters, [satellite offices](#) will be open July 23 - 27 from 9:00am to 7:00pm at the Centerville Community Center in Snellville, George Pierce Park Community Recreation Center in Suwanee, Dacula Park Activity Building in Dacula, and Lucky Shoals Park Community Recreation Center in Norcross. For more information about voter registration and advance voting, visit www.gwinnettelelections.com.



Sugarloaf Parkway meets State Route 316

Gwinnett County officials held a ribbon cutting on Monday, July 2 to open phase 1, section 3 of the Sugarloaf Parkway Extension. The newest section of Sugarloaf Parkway extends from the West Campbell Road interchange to the State Route 316 interchange and includes the entrance and exit ramps for eastbound State Route 316.

The bridge over State Route 316 and the remaining westbound ramps are expected to be complete by the end of this year. The long-range plan calls for looping Sugarloaf Parkway up through the Buford area and ultimately back to Peachtree Industrial Boulevard near Sugar Hill.

Funding for this segment of the Sugarloaf Parkway Extension was provided mostly by the SPLOST sales tax program and supplemented by state funds from the Georgia Department of Transportation.

5 ways to be smart about lawn watering in the summer heat

July is traditionally the month of peak water demand for lawns, gardens, and landscapes. With Gwinnett experiencing triple-digit temperatures, the [Department of Water Resources](#) has five tips on how residents can get the most out of every gallon of water used outdoors:

1. Group plants with similar water needs close

together and separate lawn areas from planting beds

2. Make sure you're not sending water down the drain. Aim sprinklers to water plants, not your driveway, sidewalk, patio, or buildings
3. Water at the right time of day. Watering when the sun is low, winds are calm, and temperatures are cooler minimizes evaporation by as much as 30 percent. The best time to water is during early morning hours before the sun comes up
4. Thoroughly soak the root zone (generally within the top six inches of soil for lawns), then let the soil dry. Watering too frequently results in shallow roots and encourages weed growth, disease, and fungus
5. Inspect your irrigation system for leaks, broken, or clogged sprinkler heads or other damaged components, and check that sprinkler heads are high enough to clear plants that may have grown taller since your irrigation system was installed



For more tips on efficient irrigation, visit www.smartirrigationmonth.org or www.gwinnetth2o.com.

Celebrate National Park and Recreation Month

July is National Park and Recreation Month, and [Parks and Recreation](#) is encouraging residents to *Get Up, Get Out, and Explore Your Parks*. To help, they are hosting the following events:



Splash and Bash
Saturday, July 7 from 1:00pm to 5:00pm
West Gwinnett Park Aquatic Center
4488 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard in Norcross

Daybreak Dash Fun Run
Saturday, July 14 registration is at 7:30am
Settles Bridge Park
380 Johnson Road in Suwanee

Dog Day at the Park
Saturday, July 21 at 9:00am
Pinckneyville Park Medlock Pavilion
4758 South Old Peachtree Road in Norcross

NFL's Punt, Pass, and Kick
Saturday, July 28 at 2:00pm
Rhodes Jordan Park
100 East Crogan Street in Lawrenceville

For more information on these events, visit www.gwinnettparks.com.

Want to learn canning and preserving?

Gwinnett County Cooperative Extension Service is hosting an interactive demonstration on canning and preserving fruits and vegetables July 12 from 1:00pm to 2:30pm. You will have the chance to learn the correct way to freeze, store, and preserve fruits and vegetables and even make your own salsa.

So *Easy to Preserve* books will be available for purchase for \$18 each. Cost of the class is \$1 cash in exact change. For curriculum information, contact Ines Beltran at 678.377.4010. To reserve your seat, contact the Centerville Community Center at 770.985.4713.



Do you have leftover fireworks from Fourth of July 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.



SR 316 Interchange Construction at Collins Hill Road and SR 20

The Georgia Department of Transportation is changing two existing intersections of the heavily traveled SR 316 into one interchange. The traffic lights will be removed, and the area will be an exit or interchange with exit ramps like the other exits along SR 316 closer to Atlanta. However, one interchange will service both Collins Hill Road and SR 20. Upon completion, SR 316 will have limited access to exits or interchanges from west of SR 20 to Interstate 85.

Visit www.gwinnettcountry.com for construction updates and to find out more about the project.

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