



August 5, 2011

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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 information below 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!

Board of Commissioners will hold a Special Called Meeting

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners will hold a Special Called Meeting on **Monday, August 8 at 6:00pm** in the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center Auditorium, 75 Langley Drive in Lawrenceville. The meeting will be held for the purpose of Adopting the 2011 Millage Rate and Approving a 2011 Resolution to Levy Taxes. The public is invited to attend.

The advertised millage rate for 2011 is the same as 2010. To view the current year's estimated tax digest and levy along with the history of the tax digest and levy for the past five years, [click here](#).

School bus traffic law enforcement detail

The Gwinnett County Police Department's Motor Unit (motorcycle mounted officers) will be conducting a special detail throughout the entire county during the first few weeks of school. The unit will be following school buses on their normal routes in an effort to enforce laws pertaining to traffic around school buses.

Please be mindful of school buses and students returning to the streets in the coming days. Drive safely and help keep the children of Gwinnett safe!

Peach Pass registration open

The State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA) officially opened Peach Pass account registration for motorists who want the option to use the new I-85 Express Lanes when they open later this summer. The Peach Pass, a small, thin toll collection device, will provide access to the new I-85 Express Lanes and the all-electronic toll lanes on GA 400.

Peach Pass registration is available online at www.peachpass.com, by phone at 1.855.724.7277, and in-person at two Department of Driver Services locations in Gwinnett County: 2211 Beaver Run Road in Norcross and 310 Hurricane Shoals Road in Lawrenceville.

Peach Pass registration is required for all vehicles using the I-85 Express Lanes, including toll-exempt carpools with three or more occupants, transit vehicles, motorcycles, emergency vehicles, and Alternative Fuel Vehicles (AFV) with the proper AFV license plates (not including hybrids).

To register for an account, motorists will need their address, phone number, vehicle tag information,



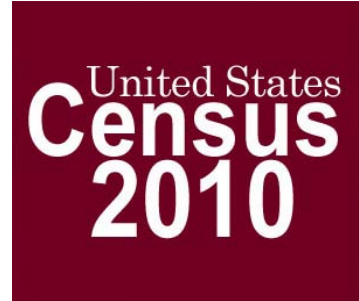
and an initial prepaid amount of \$20 for personal toll accounts. The Peach Pass transponder adheres to a vehicle's windshield (or front bumper if using a bumper mount transponder) and is electronically linked to a registered Peach Pass account. When customers decide to use the I-85 Express Lanes, tolls will be automatically deducted from their Peach Pass account. Motorists who enter the I-85 Express Lanes without having a valid Peach Pass account will receive a Uniform Toll Violation notice and be charged a \$25 administrative fee in addition the toll.

Existing Cruise Card holders can immediately use the I-85 Express Lanes when they open later this summer and do not have to do anything since their accounts are now considered Peach Pass accounts, as of June 20, 2011. For more information or to sign up for a Peach Pass account, go to www.peachpass.com. For a list of frequently asked questions and answers, [click here](#).

Gwinnett Human Relations Commission hosts census data update

Join the Gwinnett County Human Relations Commission on **Thursday, August 11 from 7:00pm to 9:00pm** at for a 2010 census data update at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center, located at 75 Langley Drive in Lawrenceville.

Hear from U.S. Census Bureau/Atlanta Region representatives and consider the implications for Gwinnett's future as a majority-minority county. In addition, State Senator Curt Thompson and representatives from the Center for Pan Asian Community Services and the American Civil Liberties Union will discuss how the 2010 Census data affects redistricting efforts, explain how redistricting is affected by the *Voting Rights Act*, and share how Gwinnett residents can get involved in redistricting efforts.



This event is free, and refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP to Gwinnett HRC at gwinnetthrc@gmail.com if you plan to attend.

Cooperative Extension promotes radon awareness

Radon is a colorless, odorless, tasteless, and potentially lethal gas that the Surgeon General lists as the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. To raise awareness of this dangerous gas, [Gwinnett Cooperative Extension](#) is holding a radon poster contest in partnership with other cooperative extensions around the nation.

National winners will receive award plaques, gift cards, and will be recognized in the state and EPA region where they live. The winning posters will be reproduced and distributed nationally to promote radon awareness. The deadline for submission is October 12, 2011. Children ages nine to 14 are eligible. For guidelines and criteria, visit the [University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service](#) website.

Become partnership parents for foster children

There are about 9,000 children in foster care in Georgia and about 400 from Gwinnett County. The Gwinnett County office of the **Georgia Division of Family and Children Services** (DFCS) urges Gwinnett families to make a difference in children's lives by becoming partnership (formerly known as foster) parents. Get involved in partnership parenting by attending an upcoming orientation sponsored by the Gwinnett County DFCS.

Orientations are held the second Monday of each month from 6:00pm - 8:00pm at the Clayton Commerce Center, 33 South Clayton Street in Lawrenceville. For more information, call 877.210.5437 or visit www.gapartnershipparents.org.

Pest control tactics

Pests, whether they are insects, weeds, or plant diseases, come with any home or garden. One of the most effective ways to control them is to practice integrated pest management, which anticipates problems and uses preventative measures.



Integrated pest management does not eliminate chemical pesticides altogether; it combines different cultural, biological, and chemical control methods to keep pest populations under control. By performing certain actions and planning ahead, you can actually prevent pests from building up to populations to where they become a problem.

An example of integrated pest management to keep insects out of homes is to prune plant material and pull the mulch at least 12 to 18 inches away from the home. Other integrated pest management methods can be as simple as physically removing pests whether it is washing aphids off with a hose or picking bagworms off infested plant material. Closely observe the trunks of trees, the buds of flowering plants, the undersides of leaves and around your home for signs of pest activity. Routine monitoring will help you detect pests while they are in the early stages so you can take the appropriate tactics to reduce their potential damage.

Keeping pests under control

Pest problems can be brought under control by implementing proper cultural methods. For example, over-fertilization of turf and plant material opens the door to numerous problems. On turf grasses, it can increase the incidence of diseases, in particular brown patch, a fungus that appears in the warm weather months causing brown dead rings of grass. On ornamental plants, excessive fertilizer usage can lead to succulent new growth that can attract aphids and other insects. Excessive amounts of water can also cause root rot and other plant diseases. Any supplemental water applications should be done in the early morning hours, so the excess water will evaporate from the leaves during the day and not be on the plant in the evening and night when conditions are more conducive to the development of diseases.

If the need to use chemical pesticides arises, make sure you have properly identified the pest. An insecticide will control insects but will have no effect on a plant disease caused by a fungus. You need to select the right pesticide for the problem. Remember to **read all label instructions before using pesticides.**

Integrated pest management can help reduce the pest problems in your home and garden. Many garden problems can be avoided by planning ahead and understanding that pest infestations are often the result of many factors, and integrated pest management will help to keep pests under control.

Source: Timothy Daly, an Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent with [Gwinnett County Cooperative Extension Service](#)

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