



August 19, 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!

County website gets new look

The County's website, www.gwinnettcounty.com, has a new look! The updated website has a fresh design and user-friendly experience that features more photos and specialty pages tailored to residents, visitors, and businesses. There is also a direct link to the County's online services. The newly redesigned *Services* section offers comprehensive information about the services that Gwinnett County Government and its partner organizations provide to residents like you.



In addition, a [Your Money](#) Web page highlights the County's finances and shows you the value of the services you receive for the property taxes you pay. The homepage will continue to feature the latest County news stories, but now includes a section that puts feature stories at the top of the page. Be sure to check it out!

Commissioners lower county millage rate

Gwinnett commissioners voted unanimously on Monday, August 8 to lower the County's millage rate from the 2010 rate of 13.25 mills to 13.02 mills for 2011. The board also authorized the 2011 property tax billings.

The operations millage rate of 11.78 will remain the same, but the board eliminated a debt-service levy of .23 mills for a 1986 bond issue for roads and libraries that was paid off earlier this year. This reduced the total debt levy from .47 to .24 mills. The recreation fund levy remains at 1.0 mill. Many residents also will notice a decrease in their tax bill because property values have fallen.

Tax bills will be mailed in September with a single payment due date of November 15, according to the Gwinnett County Tax Commissioner.

Find out where your property taxes go

Check out Gwinnett County's new interactive Web page that lets you, as a residential or commercial property owner, see the value you get in county services for the property taxes you pay. The page is titled [Where Your Property Taxes Go](#) and can be accessed from



the [Your Money](#) button on the [County's homepage](#).

The Web page features a property tax calculator that details how property taxes are allocated among various functional areas of county government such as public safety, sheriff and judicial, public works and transportation, and recreation. The tool also provides specific examples of the many services provided to county residents for those tax dollars.

To access the information in the property tax calculator, you can search for a specific property or enter a fair market value. When searching for a particular property, enter one of several pieces of information: physical address, mailing address, parcel identification number, or owner name. The calculator will return an estimate of the total property taxes and fees paid based upon the most recent bill, including a pie chart showing how the taxes were allocated to each of the functions and activities of the County government.

The fair market value option displays estimated county, state, and school taxes only; it does not include fees, city taxes, or exemptions because those are unique to each property owner.

Projects approved for Harbins and Rabbit Hill Parks

New facilities are coming to the County's largest park, Harbins Park east of Grayson. The park will have a multi-purpose (football/soccer/lacrosse) field with bleachers, a concession/restroom building, and a lighted walking track. There will also be a rental pavilion, a playground, a dog park, a three-acre lake and a 1.5-mile paved trail through the lowlands adjacent to Cedar Creek.



Rabbit Hill Park near Dacula will add two soccer fields, a concession/restroom building and a trail extension. The park will also have seven new baseball/softball fields, a multi-purpose field with a lighted walking track, playgrounds, and a six-acre lake that will provide irrigation water from an on-site well. The nearly \$9.6 million project also includes road improvements with a traffic signal and turn lanes at the intersection of Hurricane Shoals Road and Rabbit Hill Road.

These new park facilities were part of the 2009 SPLOST sales tax program and will get underway soon following approval of the construction contracts by the Board of Commissioners on Tuesday, August 16. [Click here](#) to read more.

Calling all volunteers

Gwinnett County is implementing a countywide volunteer program, establishing a goal to reach one million volunteer hours per year by 2015! While some departments already have active volunteer programs in place, the comprehensive *Volunteer Gwinnett* program was developed in response to an *Engage Gwinnett* committee recommendation to engage residents in volunteer activities to support government operations and potentially save money.

The *Volunteer Gwinnett* program will offer an easy way for interested residents to read about available volunteer opportunities



and sign up online. Development of the website is underway. The program will also include a standardized training and registration process along with events to recognize volunteers for their service. In addition, each county department, agency and office has designated staff to manage their volunteer opportunities and volunteers. [Click here](#) to read more.

Friends host second annual Charity Golf Classic at TPC Sugarloaf

Friends of Gwinnett County Senior Services will host its second annual Charity Golf Classic at TPC Sugarloaf on Monday, September 12. Proceeds from the event will support selected Gwinnett County senior programs such as the Meals on Wheels program. Sponsorship opportunities and team participation are available for this event that promises to become an annual favorite. Players must register by September 6. Those who wish to sponsor the event or donate must register by September 2. For more information, please call 678.377.3020 or [click here](#).



New section of Sugarloaf Parkway opens

The next-to-last section of the current Sugarloaf Parkway extension project opened to traffic on Thursday, August 18. The 1.4 mile section runs from an interchange at Martins Chapel Road to one at West Campbell Road. The project also includes another mile of road upgrades in the area with a new Bramlett Shoals Connector and a realignment of Campbell Road.

The final leg from West Campbell Road to State Route 316 is under construction and will open in the second half of 2012. Most funding for the extension from State Route 20/Grayson Highway south of Lawrenceville to 316 has come from the voter-approved SPLOST sales tax program.

This project will hopefully improve mobility and is part of Gwinnett's ongoing commitment to extend Sugarloaf Parkway to Peachtree Industrial in Sugar Hill.

Back-to-school supplies still needed

Gwinnett County agencies need your help! Students may be back in school already, but many of Gwinnett's agencies are still collecting the following school supplies for families who cannot afford them:

- Book bags
- Pens
- Pencils
- Rulers
- Scissors
- Ruled paper
- Composition books
- Markers
- Colored pens and markers
- Highlighters
- Three-ring binders
- Glue sticks
- Index cards
- Lunch boxes
- Graph paper
- Calculators
- Erasers
- Crayons

Contact any of the following agencies to donate any school supplies you can offer. All of these groups are actively involved, year after year, in meeting the needs of less fortunate families here in Gwinnett.

[North Gwinnett Co-operative Ministry](#)
[Gwinnett Department of Family and Children Services](#)
[Trinity Life Church](#)
[Lilburn Co-operative Ministry](#)
[Centerville Community Center](#)
[Day of Hope Foundation](#)

For more information, visit the [Gwinnett Coalition for Health and Human Services](#).

gwinnettcounty
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