

News for Neighborhoods

A newsletter for gwinnettcounty homeowners

August 31, 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!

Rating agencies reaffirm Gwinnett's Triple-AAA

Gwinnett County officials learned on August 16 that Moody's, Standard and Poor's, and Fitch Ratings have reaffirmed the government's AAA credit rating with a stable outlook. Taking advantage of low interest rates, the County refinanced a 2003 general obligation bond that paid for construction of the jail expansion. At an interest rate of less than one percent, the refund will save \$2.2 million in interest over the life of the bond, according to Finance Director Maria Woods.



Commission Chairman Charlotte Nash said, "This is great news. Gwinnett County's sound financial management over the long-term has paid off once again with tangible results. I am pleased that we can reduce debt payments and save taxpayer dollars."

Gwinnett County has held the highest bond rating since 1997. The three rating agencies also reaffirmed the top rating on other Gwinnett County debt, including \$969.5 million in water and sewer bonds and \$94.7 million in Development Authority bonds.

Moody's cited Gwinnett's "strong fiscal management of the county as evidenced by ample reserves and demonstrated commitment toward maintaining its financial position."

According to Standard and Poor's, the agency's rating reflects the county's "good financial management policies and practices and moderate overall debt levels, with no plans for additional new debt."

And Fitch noted "the regional economy remains well positioned for growth over the long term, benefiting from solid in-migration patterns, a well-educated workforce, a large and diverse economy, and below-average living costs."

County offices closed for Labor Day: September 3

All offices, with the exception of those operations required for the comfort and safety of the residents of Gwinnett County, will be closed on Monday, September 3 in observance of the Labor Day holiday. All offices will resume regular working hours on Tuesday, September 4. A Magistrate Court judge will be available at the Gwinnett County Detention Center.

Haulers will follow their normal trash schedules during the Labor Day holiday. The Gwinnett County Solid Waste and Recycling Call Center will be closed that day, but hauler call centers will be open. Residents can visit www.sustainablegwinnett.com to find their hauler's contact information.

Donate to the Gwinnett Parks Foundation

The members of the Gwinnett Parks Foundation are united in their desire to enhance Gwinnett's parks for the benefit of current residents and future generations.

Make a difference with a tax-deductible donation that helps Fund pLaY through scholarships and park enhancements.

For more information, visit the Gwinnett Parks Foundation at www.gwinnettparksfoundation.org.



Senior trip to the Yellow Daisy Festival: September 6

For those ages 50 and up, there is a senior trip to the renowned Yellow Daisy Festival in Atlanta on Thursday, September 6 for only \$16 per person.

The Yellow Daisy Festival is not just an ordinary arts and crafts show. In its 43 years of running, the festival has been named one of the top three arts and crafts shows in the nation by *Sunshine Artist* magazine. The festival also includes live entertainment, including clogging and live music, and fabulous food.

The first pickup will be at 9:00am at the George Pierce Park Community Recreation Center, located at 55 Buford Highway in Suwanee, and a second pickup will be at 9:30am at the Bethesda Park Senior Center, located at 225 Bethesda Church Road in Lawrenceville. The cost does not include money for lunch, and since there are over 400 artists and crafters from 38 states, make sure to bring additional money for purchases. To register, call 678.277.0850 or [register online](#).

Police offers teen driving classes: September 19

The Gwinnett Police Department's crime prevention officers are offering P.R.I.D.E. Program (Parents Reducing Injuries and Driver Error) safe driving classes to assist new drivers and their parents. The P.R.I.D.E. program is a free, national award-winning, two-hour course designed to educate teen drivers ages 14 - 16. Officers do not conduct any behind-the-wheel training but instruct parents and teens on what to expect during the 40 hours of supervised practice driving time required by Georgia law and throughout their driving experience.

The next class is September 19 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the West Precinct in Norcross, located at 6160 Crescent Drive. Call 678.442.6553 to register. Please register early; classes fill up fast.

Traffic Safety for Teens

In addition to the P.R.I.D.E. program, crime prevention officers also present Traffic Safety for Teens. This free, 45-minute class will cover crash dynamics, seat belts, speeding, alcohol, street signs, road rules, and distractions such as texting while driving.

To schedule a Traffic Safety for Teens class, contact Officer S. Kissel at 678.442.6553 or stephen.kissel@gwinnettcounty.com or contact Corporal C. McGrath at 678.442.6572 or christopher.mcgrath@gwinnettcounty.com.



Managing fire ants

Fire ants are a painful nuisance that can cause allergic reactions for susceptible individuals. Despite the problems they cause, fire ant infestations can be managed. The main objective of any control measure is to kill the queen since she is the only one capable of

reproducing, and without her, the whole colony will die. Here are three strategies when using chemical pesticides:



- Use bait: Use an insecticide mixed with a food source that attracts ants throughout the infested area. Worker ants carry the bait into their mounds and feed it to the queen, and eventually the whole colony dies. Make sure the ground is dry before using this method.
- Drench the mounds: Use insecticide diluted in water to drench the ant mound. This can be effective if it penetrates to the bottom of the mound.
- Apply granules: Apply a granular insecticide labeled to the entire area where you want to control ants. These products can take a few days to work, but if properly applied, can potentially control the fire ants for up to a year. This method can also help prevent new infestations in the treated area.

If you are reluctant to using pesticides, pouring boiling water on the mounds works fairly well. The best times to do so are when the ants are close to the surface on a sunny, cool day. This kills most of the ants, but there is a greater chance that the mounds will have to be retreated.

For more gardening and landscaping tips, visit www.gwinnettextension.com.

gwinnettcounty
Communications Division
770.822.7180
www.gwinnettcounty.com

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Gwinnett County Communications | 75 Langley Drive | Lawrenceville | GA | 30046