

News for Neighborhoods

A newsletter for gwinnettcounty homeowners

September 16, 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!

Gwinnett Transit Advisory Board hosts meeting on proposed fare increase

Gwinnett Transit Advisory Board (GTAB) will host a public meeting on September 19 at 7:00pm in the Gwinnett County Justice and Administration Center auditorium, located at [75 Langley Drive in Lawrenceville](#). The meeting will be an opportunity for residents to provide public comment on the [proposed increases to passenger fares](#). Comments received from all sources will be summarized and reviewed by staff, GTAB, and the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners.



Written comments will also be accepted through September 22. [Submit your comments and suggestions](#) to www.gctransit.com or e-mail transit@gwinnettcounty.com. Written comments can be mailed to Gwinnett County Department of Transportation, Attention: Proposed Fare Changes, 75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville, GA 30046 or faxed to Gwinnett County Transit at 770.822.7478. Comments submitted by e-mail or fax must be received by 5:00pm on September 22. Mailed comments must be postmarked by September 22, 2011.

Where do your property taxes go?

Did you know that the average Gwinnett household pays less than one quarter a day to provide Parks and Recreation programs and maintenance?

You can see where all your tax dollars go by using the new [Where your property taxes go](#) tool on the [County's website](#). Just enter your address or the fair market value of a home to get a complete breakdown of how much per day - or per year - goes to various local government services.



Public Safety Fall Festival

Join Gwinnett County Police and Fire and Emergency Services for their annual [Public Safety Fall Festival](#) on Saturday, October 1 from 10:00am to 3:00pm at Coolray Field, home of the Gwinnett Braves.

Admission is free, but please bring canned food items for Gwinnett food bank shelves! Activities include touch-a-truck, blood drive, car and motorcycle

show, and pet adoptions. There will also be a moon walk and a climbing wall along with free car seat checks, blood donations, a scavenger hunt, and a softball game between Gwinnett's police and fire departments.



I-85 Express Lanes scheduled to open October 1

The State Road and Tollway Authority announced that the I-85 Express Lanes will officially open on Saturday, October 1. The opening date is contingent upon successful testing and weather conditions. Motorists will see road signs change over the next few weeks. Until the Express Lanes officially open, motorists should continue to follow the current HOV2+ rules, which require vehicles to have two or more occupants in order to use the HOV lanes.



What does this mean for you?

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, on-call emergency vehicles, and Alternative Fuel Vehicles (AFV) with the proper AFV license plates (not including hybrids). Peach Pass accounts can be used for both the I-85 and GA 400 tolls.

How do you register?

Peach Pass registration also is available online at www.PeachPass.com, by phone at 1.855.PCH.PASS, and in person at two Department of Driver Services locations in Gwinnett County: 2211 Beaver Ruin Road in Norcross and 310 Hurricane Shoals Road in Lawrenceville.

To register for an account, you will need your contact and vehicle tag information and an initial prepaid amount of \$20. The Peach Pass sticks to your windshield and is electronically linked to a registered Peach Pass account. When you use the I-85 Express Lanes, tolls will be automatically deducted from your Peach Pass account.

For more information on Peach Pass and the I-85 Express Lanes, visit www.PeachPass.com.

2012 Budget review process begins

Each Gwinnett County department and agency presented its 2012 business plan including needed financial resources to Commission Chairman Charlotte Nash and a budget review committee made up of citizens and designated County staff on September 6, 7, and 12 at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center. [Click here](#) for more information and links to the [business plan review presentations](#).

Transportation Investment Act meeting in Gwinnett

Regional transportation planners will hold a public meeting in Lawrenceville on the Transportation Investment Act, the proposed regional sales tax for transportation that residents in metro Atlanta will be voting on in 2012. Come see what's included on the current list of proposed projects, get answers to your questions, or make comments.

The meeting will be held Monday, September 26 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm in the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center auditorium, [located at 75 Langley Drive in Lawrenceville](#). You can also provide input at www.atlantaregionalroundtable.com or by calling 404.463.3123.

Gwinnett Coalition to host 12th annual Great Days of Service

The Gwinnett Coalition for Health and Human Services will host the 12th annual Gwinnett Great Days of Service this year on Friday, September 30 and Saturday, October 1.

The event is designed to engage the community through volunteer time, sponsorships, and donations to support local community service projects. This is one of the largest volunteer initiatives in the country and addresses the critical project needs of nonprofits and schools in Gwinnett County.

Those who wish to volunteer can do so individually, as a group, or with a company. Projects are widely varied and are based on location, interest area, or by number of volunteers needed. Project registration will take place through September 23. For more information, please visit www.gwinnettgreatdaysofservice.org.



Based on terms of contracts, monthly residential solid waste fee increases slightly

The monthly residential solid waste service fee charged to residents in unincorporated Gwinnett County will go up slightly under the terms of the contracts with the trash hauling companies that were executed by the County in 2010.

The increase of 30 cents per month goes into effect for the 2012 annual billing and will bring the total monthly fee for the weekly collection of trash, bulky items, and recycling to \$18.16. The fee for 12 months of solid waste service to be included on the 2011 property tax bills amounts to \$217.92. Those bills are expected to be received during the second week in September.

In accordance with the agreements the County has with the solid waste haulers, this fee increase is calculated from increases in the consumer price index and rising fuel prices. Even with the small monthly increase, residents will notice a substantial reduction in the total solid waste fee charged on the tax bills since they will only be billed for 12 months instead of 18. With the start of the new solid waste program in July 2010, residents were charged for service for the last six months of 2010 and all of 2011.

The implementation of Gwinnett County's solid waste and recycling program last year increased curbside recycling opportunities, provided same-day neighborhood pickup, and ensured all residents have trash service. More information about solid waste and recycling service in unincorporated Gwinnett County can be found on the [Recycling and Solid Waste](#) webpage.

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