



September 14, 2012

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[Tax & Tag News](#)
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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!

2013 budget review team gets to work

Gwinnett Commission Chairman Charlotte Nash has asked six residents to serve on the County's budget review team. County staff members will support Nash and the review team in setting priorities and making recommendations for the 2013 budget.



Over the last several years, budget preparation has been challenged by the need to balance core services with declining tax revenue. During the first two weeks in September, each County department and agency presented a business plan including needed financial resources to the review team. The videotaped presentations are available for viewing on the [Budget Review Meetings webpage](#).

The Chairman's proposed 2013 budget will be made available to the public and the media at the same time it is presented to commissioners, which is anticipated to occur on November 6. A public hearing on the budget will be held in December. By County ordinance, the Board of Commissioners must adopt the annual budget during its first meeting in January.

Register to vote in the General election

The 2012 General election will take place on Tuesday, November 6. The deadline to [register to vote](#) and be eligible to cast a ballot in the election is Tuesday, October 9.

To register to vote in Georgia, you must be:

- A citizen of the United States
- A legal resident of Georgia and of the county in which you wish to vote
- At least 18 years old by Election Day

Those currently serving any sentence imposed by the conviction of a felony or judicially determined to be mentally incompetent are not eligible to register to vote.



Registered voters may [request an absentee ballot](#) by mail up to 180 days prior to any election; ballots will begin being mailed by September 21. Voters may cast their ballots in person from October 15 to November 2, 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 October 27 from 9:00am to 4:00pm.

For the convenience of voters, [satellite offices](#) will be open Saturday, October 27, 9:00am to 4:00pm and October 29 - November 2 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.

Annual Honeybee Festival | September 15

The Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center will be hosting the third Annual Honeybee Festival on Saturday, September 15 from 11:00am to 3:00pm in honor of the honeybee, the top pollinator of crops in the United States and a vital part of the food cycle.



Come out for plenty of family friendly activities, including bee games and crafts. The festival is included with [center admission](#), but be sure to bring some money for locally produced honey! For more information, visit www.gwinnettEHC.org.

Public Safety Fall Festival | October 6

Gwinnett County Police and Fire and Emergency Services are hosting the third annual [Public Safety Fall Festival](#) on Saturday, October 6 from 10:00am to 4:00pm at Coolray Field, home of the Gwinnett Braves.

Fire trucks, motorcycles, and a helicopter will be on display for everyone to see. With events such as safety demonstrations, kids' activities, pet adoptions, a yard sale, and a softball game between police and firefighters, the festival will be fun for the whole family. Admission is free, but be sure to bring canned food items to help fill local food bank shelves.

Are you prepared for a natural disaster?

September is National Preparedness Month in Gwinnett County. Are you prepared for a natural disaster? A federal government website, www.ready.gov, offers tips and checklists for making family communication plans and stocking up on essentials like food, water, flashlights, radios, batteries, and a first aid kit.

Sign up to volunteer for Great Days of Service

Volunteer sign-up for the 13th Annual Gwinnett Great Days of Service is now open at www.gwinnettgreatdaysofservice.org. This year's event will be held on Friday, October 5 and Saturday, October 6, 2012, with over 300 different projects to choose from. This annual event offers Gwinnett residents the opportunity to donate their time and energy to doing community service and helping those in need.

One of the largest volunteer initiatives in the United States, Gwinnett Great Days of Service enables local nonprofit organizations, schools, and churches to enhance their services in the community. Last year, 80,000 volunteers for Gwinnett Great Days of Service completed more than 300 community projects including staffing community events, painting and repairing buildings, installing playground sets, and cleaning up nature trails. The event is hosted by the Gwinnett Coalition for Health and Human Services in partnership with United Way of North Metro Atlanta. For more information, visit the website www.gwinnettgreatdaysofservice.org.

2012 property tax bills due: October 15

Tax Commissioner Richard Steele has mailed the 2012 property tax bills, which are due on October 15.

Taxpayers who prefer to pay in two installments may choose to make an earlier partial payment as long as the total due is paid by October 15. There are several options for property tax payment:



- Pay online by check or credit card at www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com (Paying by check is free; convenience fees apply for credit card transactions.)
- Mail payments to P.O. Box 372, Lawrenceville, GA 30046
- Pay by check using drop boxes 24 hours a day at all Tax Commissioner offices
- Pay in person during business hours at all Tax Commissioner offices

For property owners with an escrow account, tax information will be made available to the mortgage company; however, it is ultimately the responsibility of the property owner to ensure taxes are paid by the due date. If there are questions about who will pay the taxes, homeowners should contact their mortgage company directly, especially if their mortgage company has recently changed.

For more information, contact the office at tax@gwinnettcountry.com or 770.822.8800.

Keep pests out of your home

The sight of ants, roaches, spiders, and other pests in your home is unsettling. You may be asking yourself, how are these pests getting inside? Unfortunately, they are attracted to the many sources of food and water in your home. Here are some things you can do to keep these pests out:

- Seal any cracks and holes in the outside walls of your home and its foundation, and be sure all doors and windows are properly sealed.
- Remove any leaves, firewood, bricks, stones, mulch, or plant materials to be 12 inches from your house, and do not allow vines to grow on your home.
- Clean out your gutters and repair or replace those in poor condition.
- Avoid storing firewood in your home; only bring inside wood that will be used in your fireplace right away.
- Avoid attracting pests by cleaning up spilled food and drinks, keeping food in tightly sealed containers or in the refrigerator and lids on garbage cans, and fixing leaking pipes or leaks in your basement or roof.

Some pesticides can be applied for pest control, but make sure the pesticide is labeled for applications indoors or around the perimeter of your home. Follow all of the directions and safety precautions listed on the label, and use pesticides in conjunction with the above control methods.

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

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