



News for Neighborhoods

A newsletter for gwinnettcounty homeowners

October 28, 2011

Other newsletters:

[GC Connection](#)
[Gwinnett LIFE](#)
[OneStop](#)
[Tax & Tag News](#)
[Waterwords](#)

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!

Family Caregivers Conference

The annual Family Caregiver's Conference will take place on November 5 from 9:00am - 3:00pm at the First United Methodist Church of Lawrenceville, 395 West Crogan Street in Lawrenceville. The conference will include two breakout sessions, *Caregivers of Adults* and *Grandparents Raising Grandchildren*, and other community resources. The cost for this event is \$10 per person.



For more information, contact Julie Lucas at 678.377. 6721. To be a vendor, contact Harriet Wharton at harriet.wharton@gwinnettcounty.com.

National emergency alert system test: November 9

On Wednesday, November 9 at 2:00pm, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will conduct the first-ever nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS). This test differs from the state and local level EAS the National Weather Service uses for weather alerts and will not be carried or broadcast on NOAA Weather Radios.

The test may last up to three and a half minutes and will involve broadcast radio and television stations, cable television, satellite radio and television services, and wireline providers across all states and territories. Viewers and listeners will hear a message indicating that this is a test. The EAS is a public alert and warning system that enables the president to address the American public during extreme emergencies.

For more information about EAS, visit www.fema.gov/emergency/ipaws/eas_info.shtm.

Homeowner H₂O: Water Conservation Workshop

The [Department of Water Resources](#) is hosting a water conservation workshop on November 3 from 7:00pm - 8:30pm. The workshop will be at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center, located at 75 Langley Drive in Lawrenceville, on the second floor in the conference area.

Attending and learning how to reduce your water use means lower water bills every month. Each participant will receive a free low-flow retrofit kit, an outdoor water efficiency kit, a do-it-yourself home water audit guide, and information on



how to apply for Gwinnett County's toilet rebate program.

Please pre-register at dwrconserve@gwinnettcountry.com and include your name, address, and telephone number or call 678.376.6722.

Be safe this Halloween

Halloween is coming up, and the Gwinnett County [Department of Fire and Emergency Services](#) wants to remind you to be safe. Here are a few tips to use on Halloween night:



For your home:

- Only use decorations that are tested by an independent laboratory
- Never overload electrical outlets with holiday lighting or special effects
- Keep paper and dry decorations such as leaves, cornstalks, and hay bales away from open flames or any other heat source
- Use flashlights in jack-o-lanterns instead of candles to prevent a fire
- Avoid using decorative candles at Halloween festivities and parties, especially around pets and small children
- Eliminate tripping hazards on your porch or walkway to the front door; light the path for a safe entry and exit for children

Costumes:

- Costumes should fit properly; baggy sleeves or billowing capes pose a tripping hazard as well as a fire hazard
- Use soft or flexible props for costumes and avoid those that have sharp points or jagged edges
- If kids are carrying toy weapons as part of their costumes, make sure they do not look authentic; use only soft or plastic toy replicas to prevent injury
- Carry a flashlight or glow stick as part of the costume
- Consider adding reflective tape to costumes and trick-or-treat bags for better visibility
- Choose costumes that are bright-colored and made of flame-resistant materials; look for a fire-retardant label on any store-bought costume

2011 property tax process update

Gwinnett County taxpayers should have received their [2011 property tax bills](#); payment is due on November 15. As you may recall, the Board of Commissioners actually lowered the millage rate slightly this year, so many property tax owners will see a lower tax bill.

If you receive a property tax bill and have an open appeal on the value of the property, there will be a note mailed with your bill stating that you have been billed for 85 percent of your original property tax assessment. Be sure to pay this by November 15, and once the appeal is complete, you will either be billed or receive a check for the difference.

If you have not received any communication concerning your properly filed 2011 appeal, please e-mail assessor@gwinnettcountry.com for an estimated schedule for completion of the process.

Where do your property taxes go?

Did you know that approximately two-thirds of the Gwinnett County Government portion of your property tax bill funds public safety and the courts?



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.

gwinnettcounty
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