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August 19, 2015

**In this issue:**

What's new on TVgwinnett

Stay on the line when calling 911

Gwinnett County, local schools partner to expand safety

Updates to comprehensive transportation plan coming soon

Property taxes due October 15

Be an elections poll official

Explore Gwinnett's past at the Yellow River Post Office

**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 emails and by talking to your friends and family.



**What's new on TVgwinnett?**



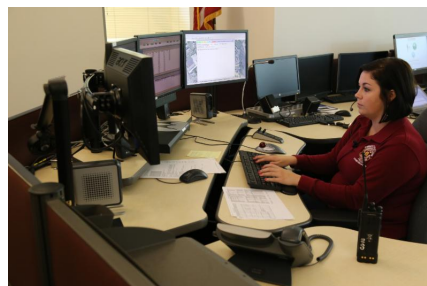
Gwinnett County brings you the latest news and happenings about your community through Eye on Gwinnett, our bi-weekly news program.

**What you'll see in this episode:**

- Commissioners modify sign law
- SPLOST funds pedestrian projects
- Gwinnett planners update transportation plan
- Tax bills due October 15
- Libraries extend hours, unveil plan

**When calling 911, stay on the line**

Since the beginning of 2015, hang-up calls to the 911 Center have increased from nearly 15 percent of all calls in January to almost 27 percent in June. It is important to remain on the line with a 911 Communications Officer even if the call was an accident. When a person hangs up on a 911 call, the Communications Officer calls the person back to insure that police or fire response is not needed, taking valuable time that could be spent addressing a true emergency call.



If you no longer need public safety response, tell the 911 Communications Officer. It takes less time to cancel your call than to hang-up and force the Communications Officer to call you back to determine the nature of your call.

Hang-ups happen for many reasons:

- Someone accidentally calls 911
- A child calls 911
- Multiple people call 911 for the same emergency
- Someone calls 911 and then changes their mind
- A child is playing with a disconnected phone, which will still call 911

Remember, it is important to stay on the line with 911 for emergencies, non-emergencies, or even if you accidentally call. If you are a witness to a crime or traffic accident, please call 911. Your statement could be valuable to the investigation. Never assume that someone else is calling 911 in an emergency.

### Gwinnett County and local schools partner to expand safety initiatives in schools

Gwinnett County Public Schools and Gwinnett County Police held a press conference recently to demonstrate the new 2014 SLOST-funded school emergency notification system that links GCPS and Buford City Schools to the 911 Center through several types of alerts, as well as video feed, when the school activates a switch. A new management system for school visitors is also being installed in all Gwinnett elementary and middle schools and four Buford schools.

The emergency notification system will be activated by trained school personnel in the event of an active threat, which eliminates the need to place a 911 call in this type of emergency. Once the system is activated, the automatic alert system will send a signal directly to the Gwinnett County 911 Center and school police headquarters. In addition, the visitor management system will provide controlled access to schools. Once the school day begins, doors will be locked and visitors will need to press a button on a control panel to gain entry to the school. Upon entering the school, visitors will follow the normal visitor procedures, signing in and showing identification to receive a visitor's badge.

### County begins updates to comprehensive transportation plan

Gwinnett County Government planners have started a major, 18-month update of its comprehensive transportation plan for the county. The process will include an inventory of the existing transportation system including roads, walking trails, bike paths, sidewalks, and public transportation. The result will be a new plan that addresses recent and projected growth in the county with both short-term and long-term goals up to 2040. County residents will have an opportunity to provide their feedback on the updates, so be on the lookout for more information.

In addition, residents can participate in The Great Exchange on Transportation, an effort to encourage dialogue about transportation in Gwinnett. For more information about this event, visit [www.thegr8exchange.com/volunteer](http://www.thegr8exchange.com/volunteer).

### Property taxes due October 15



Property owners should have received their 2015 property tax bills by now, with payment due on October 15. Taxpayers may choose to make partial payments as long as the total is paid by the due date.

For property owners with an escrow account, tax information is 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 any questions about who will pay the

taxes, homeowners should contact their mortgage company directly, especially if their mortgage company has recently changed.

There are several options for property tax payment:

- Pay online using your desktop or mobile devices by check, credit, or debit card at [www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com](http://www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com). (Paying by check is free; debit card: \$3.95 flat fee; credit card: 2.29 percent service fee)
- 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.

View your property tax information at the newly redesigned [www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com](http://www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com) and if you have questions, contact the Tax Commissioner's office at [Tax@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:Tax@gwinnettcountry.com) or 770.822.8800.

### Want to be more involved in your community? Be an elections poll official

The Gwinnett Voter Registrations and Elections Division needs dedicated citizens to serve as paid poll officials. Successful poll officials demonstrate patience, enjoy working with people, take direction well, possess basic computer skills, and are detail-oriented. If you are interested in applying, please visit [www.gwinnettcountryjobs.com](http://www.gwinnettcountryjobs.com) and select the Elections Poll Official position. Positions are available for the November 2015 election, so please apply now.

### Explore Gwinnett's past at the Yellow River Post Office

The Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center will take guests back in time to the mid-1800s with its living history event at the historic Yellow River Post Office at Hudson-Nash Farm in Lilburn on Saturday, August 29 from 10:00am to 4:00pm.

Immerse yourself in life on the home front in the 1860s. See a laundress demonstrate how clothing was cleaned, meet a soldier, participate in mock drills, gain an appreciation for period music, and learn of the contributions made by local residents Thomas P. Hudson and Eli P. Landers. Tour the historic post office and general store to understand how this location provided critical supplies to the local population.



Visitors will also explore the cultural contributions of African-Americans during this time in history through an interpretation of the slave cabin that is located on the site. Guest speakers from the United Ebony Society of Gwinnett County will help tell the stories of local African-Americans as well as share artifacts and photos that bring their stories to life.

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