

gwinnettcounty connection

a monthly publication of gwinnettcounty government

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FEATURE

2013 State of the County: "A tale of success"

Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners Chairman Charlotte Nash asked every resident and business owner in Gwinnett "to be informed, to get involved, and to stay in touch" with county government this year. Her remarks came in the annual State of the County address to community and business leaders on January 16 at the Gwinnett Center in Duluth, hosted by the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce and the Council for Quality Growth. Chairman Nash touched on the previous year's accomplishments, the critical issues facing the County in the coming year, and the idea of starting a new chapter in Gwinnett's history. The State of the County address is available for viewing on TVgwinnett, which is accessible online, on demand and on the government access cable channels of Charter, Comcast, and AT&T U-verse. The program will periodically air throughout the new year.



PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

Fix a leak to save water and money

Does your toilet keep running long after you flush? Have you put off repairing that leaky faucet because it's only a little drip? Well, even little drips can add up to hundreds or even thousands of gallons of water waste if allowed to continue for weeks or months. Now is the time to fix those leaks and save money on your next water bill!

Sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense® program, Fix a Leak Week encourages Americans to help put a stop to the more than 1 trillion gallons of water wasted from household leaks each year. This year's Fix a Leak Week is March 18 through 24. To help save water in our community, Gwinnett County is asking residents to look, listen, and repair:

- Look for dripping faucets, showerheads, tub spouts, and fixture connections. Remember to check outdoor spigots, too.
- Listen for hissing or trickling noises coming from your toilet or water refilling the tank in between flushes. Also check for silent leaks by putting a teaspoon of food coloring into the tank and seeing if it appears in the bowl before you flush.
- Repair leaks by bringing the defective part to your local hardware or plumbing store to find the correct replacement. If you buy a new fixture, look for WaterSense® labeled models, which are independently tested and certified to use 20 percent less water.

To learn more about how to find and fix leaks in your home, attend one of our free Fix a Leak Workshops held on March 19 and March 23. See the ad below for more information and to register.

Department of Water Resources

Free Workshops!

Fix a Leak Workshop

March 19 • 7:00pm to 8:30pm
Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center
75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville

March 23 • 2:00pm to 3:30pm
Centerville Community Center
3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville

Call 678.376.6722 or email dwrconserve@gwinnettcounty.com for more details or to register.

Lawn Care with Integrated Pest Management Water Quality Workshop

March 14 • 7:00pm to 8:30pm
Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center
75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville

You may qualify for a 5 percent credit toward your 2014 stormwater utility fee for attending!

Call 678.376.7193 or email dwrswreg@gwinnettcounty.com for more details or to register.

PUBLIC SAFETY

What's in your kit?

The winter weather season is almost over, but there's still a potential for a winter storm. Make sure your family has an emergency preparedness plan in place along with an emergency kit. Gwinnett Fire and Emergency Services suggests packing these items in your winter weather kit:

- Flashlights and extra batteries
- Battery-powered NOAA weather radio and a portable AM/FM radio
- Extra food and water, such as non-perishable/high energy foods and snacks
- Extra medications
- Extra baby items, especially if you have an infant or small children
- Basic first-aid supplies
- Blankets, sleeping bags, and extra clothing for warmth
- Charged cell phones
- Extra dry firewood

CHECK IT OUT

Check out these books that have been recently reviewed by library staff. These and other good reads are available at the Gwinnett County Public Library, gwinnettpl.org.

The Duck Commander Family: how faith, family, and ducks created a dynasty, by Willie and Korie Robertson

Laika, by Nick Abadzis

How the Dead Dream Ghost Lights Magnificence, by Lydia Millet

The Double Game, by Dan Fesperman

SPLOST

Upgrades coming to Traffic Control Center

The Traffic Control Center will soon get an upgrade to its traffic management system, which will expand use of the Georgia DOT's NaviGator system.

Gwinnett DOT Director **Kim Conroy** said, "This project will improve our ability to monitor and manage traffic conditions across the County. It also integrates our system with police, fire, the 911 Center, and the Emergency Operations Center, enabling them to monitor the state's cameras along I-85, which is critical to their incident management operations."

The upgrade will also add to the information available to motorists through GC Smart Commute, which currently provides live, streaming video of select major intersections from Gwinnett County traffic cameras. This resource is available online at gcsmartcommute.com and on TVgwinnett weekdays between 6:30am and 8:30am and again from 4:00pm to 6:00pm. Once completed, the upgrade will allow commuters to select a specific intersection and receive a static image that will be updated every 1 to 2 minutes.

The 2009 SPLOST sales tax program will pay for the \$341,763 contract with Delcan Corporation to perform the upgrades to the traffic monitoring system.



Pay your water bill with your smartphone

Visit www.gwinnetth2o.com using your smartphone to easily pay your water bill on the go. Just have your username or water account number and password ready. You can use this convenient service for nonrecurring, one-time only payments.

EVENTS

Gwinnett County Government hosts many events, classes, and workshops for its residents.

See these great events and more at gwinnettcounevents.com.

VITA Income Tax Preparation

March 2, 9, and 16 • 10:00am to 1:00pm
Centerville Community Center
3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville
770.985.4713

General Health and Nutrition

Fridays: March 8 and May 10 • 10:00am to noon
Buford Senior Center
2755 Sawnee Avenue, Buford
770.614.2537

CPR/AED Training

March 23 • 8:30am to 12:30pm
Fire and Emergency Services Headquarters
408 Hurricane Shoals Road, Lawrenceville
678.518.4850

Spring Bridal Brunch

March 23 • 11:00am to 1:00pm
Gwinnett Historic Courthouse
185 Crogan Street, Lawrenceville
770.822.5450

Grow Your Own Food Festival

March 24 • 1:00pm to 5:00pm
Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center
2020 Clean Water Drive, Buford
770.904.3500

Accessible Egg Hunt

For those with disabilities
March 30 • 10:30am to noon
Rhodes Jordan Park
100 East Crogan Street, Lawrenceville
678.277.0890

AROUND GWINNETT

Board adopts balanced budget

On January 3, the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners adopted a balanced budget for fiscal year 2013. The budget totals \$1.463 billion, which is 7.1 percent lower compared to last year's budget. It was prepared with input from six county residents and business people who served on the Chairman's budget review committee and worked alongside elected officials and County staff to review departmental business plans and projected revenues. The budget preserves core services, maintains necessary reserves and addresses changes in legislation. It also adjusts for the loss of revenues resulting from a drop in property values, changes mandated by the consent order that ended the Service Delivery Strategy (SDS) litigation between the County and its cities, and the creation of the new city of Peachtree Corners.

Commission Chairman **Charlotte Nash** said, "Thanks to strong support and insight from my fellow board members and other elected officials, candid input from the residents who served on the budget review committee, and staff's hard work, we have adopted a budget that maintains core services. Despite the loss of millions of dollars in revenue in 2013, we have worked hard to minimize the impact on property owners." For more information about the 2013 budget, please visit gwinnettbudget.com.

Cooperative Extension 2013 Plant Sale

Winter is the perfect time to plan your spring garden and the Cooperative Extension Service wants to help by offering locally grown plants at their annual plant sale. So walk your landscape and envision where you could place some delicious blueberries or apples or maybe some beautiful azaleas or gardenias. Orders must be placed by March 12. Please visit gwinnetttextension.com to see the list of the plants for sale and to print an order form.

TAX COMMISSIONER

New motor vehicle title tax effective March 1

House Bill 386 removes sales tax and annual ad valorem tax on newly-purchased vehicles. New car owners will pay a 6.5 percent title tax beginning March 1, 2013. For more information, visit GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com or call 770.822.8818.

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send questions or comments to shaunieka.taste@gwinnettcounty.com

Gwinnett County Communications Division
75 Langley Drive • Lawrenceville, GA 30046 • 770.822.7180

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get county government
information from the source

gwinnettcounty.com

