

gwinnettcounty connection

a monthly publication of gwinnettcounty government

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FEATURE

Chairman Nash delivers 2014 State of the County address

"We are optimistic because we have every reason to be," said Gwinnett Commission Chairman **Charlotte Nash** during the annual State of the County address to community and business leaders last month at the Gwinnett Center in Duluth, hosted by the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce and the Council for Quality Growth. Nash briefly highlighted key accomplishments from 2013 that have positioned Gwinnett for success. In addition, she praised the passage of the SPLOST referendum in November, thanking the voters for saying yes to funding vital infrastructure projects for Gwinnett cities and the County. She also announced new initiatives aimed at community outreach and bringing the entire community together. The State of the County address is available for viewing on TVgwinnett, which is accessible online, on demand, and on the government cable access channels of Charter, Comcast, and AT&T U-verse.



PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

Fix a leak to save water

More than 1 trillion gallons of water are wasted in U.S. homes each year due to easy-to-fix leaks. That's why Gwinnett County Department of Water Resources is participating in Fix-a-Leak Week, March 17 – 23, 2014, and we encourage you to join us.

Sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) WaterSense® program, Fix-a-Leak Week is an opportunity to improve the water efficiency of your home by finding and fixing leaks. Household leaks waste more than 10,000 gallons of water each year in the average home. That's the amount of water needed to wash about 270 loads of laundry! Fixing household leaks not only saves water but reduces water utility bills.

Here's how to identify leaks around your home:

- Read your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter changes at all, you probably have a leak.
- Winter months are the prime time to check water use and see if you may have a leak. If a family of four exceeds 12,000 gallons per month in the winter, you probably have leaks.
- For more information on finding and fixing household leaks, visit www.DWRconserve.com.

To learn more, plan to attend one of two free **Fix-a-Leak Workshops**. This money-saving program will be held on **Tuesday, March 18** in Lawrenceville and again on **Saturday, March 22** in Snellville. Seating is limited, so please pre-register by sending an email to dwrconserve@gwinnettcounty.com or call 678.376.6722. Participants will receive a free water conservation kit for attending.

Department of Water Resources

Free Workshops!

Fix-a-Leak Workshop

March 18 • 7:00pm to 8:30pm
Gwinnett Justice and
Administration Center
75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville

March 22 • 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 13 • 7:00pm to 8:30pm
Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center
75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville

You may qualify for a 5 percent credit toward
your 2015 stormwater utility fee for attending!

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

PUBLIC SAFETY

Help protect your child's online reputation

The Gwinnett Police Department's Special Victims Unit urges parents and guardians to be aware of and prevent sexting among children. In Georgia, it is against the law for anyone to take, send, or possess sexually explicit images of minors.

Here's how you can help:

- Supervise your children's activities on cell phones, email, and social media.
- Know your children's passwords and have access to their social media accounts.
- Encourage your children to avoid engaging in sexting activities and report it if they see it. Remind them that it is illegal and irreversible.

For more information about preventing sexting, please visit www.netismartz411.org, a website hosted by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. They also run a tip line and work hand-in-hand with law enforcement.

CHECK IT OUT

In honor of Black History Month, check out these civil rights insights. These and other titles are available at the Gwinnett Public Library, www.gwinnettpl.org.

Long walk to freedom: The autobiography of Nelson Mandela, by Nelson Mandela

March #01, by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin

Medgar Evers: Mississippi martyr, by Michael Vinson Williams

Living in the Shadows of a Legend: Unsung heroes and "sheroes" who marched with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., by Deric A. Gilliard

SPLOST

SPLOST: Traffic safety improvements coming to new school on Northbrook Parkway

Students, teachers, and parents at a new middle school in the Peachtree Ridge cluster will benefit from a school safety project funded by the 2009 SPLOST program. The project will widen a little more than a half-mile of roadway at the school entrance, build a retaining wall and sidewalk, and install curb, gutter and flashers at the new school located on Northbrook Parkway.

Gwinnett commissioners awarded the construction contract to C.W. Matthews Contracting Company Inc. of Marietta, the lowest of four bidders at slightly less than \$1.7 million.

"Once again, SPLOST funding allows us to keep up with needed safety improvements around our schools," said District 1 Commissioner **Jace Brooks**.

The expected completion date for the roadwork is the end of July prior to the school's opening in August.



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.

Indoor Yard and Craft Sale

March 1 • 10:00am to 2:00pm
Bogan Park Community Recreation Center
2723 North Bogan Road, Buford
678.277.0850

AARP Driver Safety Program for Seniors 50+

March 5 • 9:30am to 4:30pm
Buford Human Services Center
2755 Sawnee Avenue, Buford
770.614.2526

Wills, Estate Planning – Documents You Need on Hand • FREE!

March 26 • 11:00am to noon
Centerville Community Center
3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville
770.985.4715

Bunny Bash Breakfast

March 22 • 9:00am to noon
Lucky Shoals Park Community Recreation Center
4651 Britt Road, Norcross
678.277.0860

A Night in Paris, Homeschool Prom

March 28 • 6:30pm to 10:00pm
Gwinnett Historic Courthouse
185 West Crogan Street, Lawrenceville
770.822.5450

AARP Tax Aid • FREE!

Tuesdays and Thursdays • 9:00am to noon
Norcross Human Services Center
5030 Georgia Belle Court, Norcross
678.225.5400

AROUND GWINNETT

Board adopts 2014 budget

On January 7, 2014, the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners adopted a \$1.5 billion fiscal year 2014 budget that preserves core services and focuses on priorities set by commissioners during a strategic planning session held in May 2013. The balanced budget holds the line on property tax rates, expands the delivery of emergency medical services, addresses the issue of employee retention and recruitment, and funds the impact of legislation and other external factors.

Commission Chairman Charlotte Nash said community outreach efforts would include a Gwinnett Citizens Academy, among other programs. For more information about the 2014 budget, visit www.gwinnettbudget.com.

Human trafficking forums hosted by Human Relations Commission

The Gwinnett Human Relations Commission will present a series of forums to raise awareness of human trafficking in the community. The commission plans to host four forums, one in each commission district. The first will be held Thursday, February 27 from 7:00pm to 9:30pm at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, located at 2104 Beaver Ruin Road in Norcross. For more information about this event or to register, please email hrc@gwinnettcounevents.com. Please include Human Trafficking Forums as the email subject.

FOCUS ON: Animal Welfare and Enforcement Center

FOCUS ON is a monthly feature that tells how your county government employees focus on providing high-quality services to you each and every day. This month features the Animal Welfare and Enforcement Center and their efforts toward improving the quality of life for our furry friends. To read more, visit www.gwinnettcounevents.com.

TAX COMMISSIONER

Motor vehicle title tax: Opt in reminder

If you purchased a vehicle between January 1, 2012, and March 1, 2013, you have the option of paying the new title tax instead of the current annual ad valorem tax. You have until February 28, 2014, to opt in. Visit www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com for the required forms and more information.

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

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

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gwinnettcounevents.com

