

# gwinnettcounty CONNECTION

a monthly publication of **gwinnettcounty** government

April 2016



## Transportation wants your input on future plans

Tell us what you think! The Department of Transportation invites your input as we update the Comprehensive Transportation Plan, also known as the CTP, through a community-driven process.

The updated plan will summarize current and future multi-modal transportation needs within Gwinnett County and will recommend projects for the next 25 years.

You can get involved by attending a public meeting, taking our survey, and visiting our website. Upcoming meetings will be held on the following dates:

**Monday, April 18: 6:00pm to 8:00pm**  
Dacula Park Activity Building  
2735 Old Auburn Avenue in Dacula

**Thursday, April 21: 6:00pm to 8:00pm**  
One Justice Square  
446 West Crogan Street in Lawrenceville

To learn more about the CTP process and take the survey, visit [www.Destination2040Gwinnett.com](http://www.Destination2040Gwinnett.com).

## AROUND GWINNETT

### Make a difference for foster children

Did you know there are more than 9,000 children in foster care in Georgia and that about 520 of them are from Gwinnett County? The Georgia Division of Family and Children Services urges Gwinnett families to make a difference in a child's life by becoming a foster parent. Get involved by attending an upcoming orientation sponsored by the Gwinnett County DFCS. Orientations are held the second Monday of each month from 6:30pm – 8:30pm in Lawrenceville.

For more information, please call 678.852.3694 or email [cathy.chapman1@dhs.ga.gov](mailto:cathy.chapman1@dhs.ga.gov).

### Volunteer Gwinnett stays ahead of goal in 2015

When the Volunteer Gwinnett program was launched in 2012, the County set a goal to reach 1 million volunteer hours by 2015, but our wonderful volunteers blasted past that number two years ahead of schedule. The program continues to exceed its goals with volunteers giving 1,040,378 hours in 2015, maintaining the 1 million mark for the third year in a row. **We couldn't have exceeded this goal without you.** Gwinnett County depends on volunteers to help provide residents with the best services and programs possible. Visit [www.volunteergwinnett.net](http://www.volunteergwinnett.net) to find your next volunteer opportunity.

## Thank you for all you do!



### FOCUS ON: Police and Fire Citizen Academies

FOCUS ON tells the story of how your county government employees provide high-quality services to you each and every day. This month features the Gwinnett Police and Fire and Emergency Services Citizen Academies, which give residents a backstage view of how police officers and firefighters do their jobs. To read more, visit [www.gwinnettcounty.com](http://www.gwinnettcounty.com).

### County offices closed for Memorial Day

Please note that all offices, with the exception of those operations required for the comfort and safety of the citizens of Gwinnett County, will be closed Monday, May 30, in observance of the Memorial Day holiday.

The public is invited to a Memorial Day Ceremony at the Gwinnett Fallen Heroes Memorial in Lawrenceville at 1:00pm to celebrate and remember the men and women who have served and protected us throughout our nation's history.

Explore Gwinnett is Gwinnett's official tourism agency and promotes Gwinnett as a place to meet, stay, and play.

View the complete events calendar at

[www.exploreGwinnett.com](http://www.exploreGwinnett.com).

### Eddie Owens Presents – Songwriters Open Mic Night

Every second and fourth Sunday at 5:00pm  
Red Clay Music Foundry  
3116 Main Street, Duluth

### Cirque Du Soleil Toruk – The First Flight

June 15 – 19  
Wednesday – Friday • 7:30pm  
Saturday • 4:00pm and 7:30pm  
Sunday • 1:30pm and 5:00pm  
Infinite Energy Arena  
6400 Sugarloaf Parkway, Duluth

### Lawrenceville Summer Concert Series

May 27 – September 30  
8:00pm – 10:00pm  
Lawrenceville Lawn  
147 Luckie Street, Lawrenceville

### gwinnettcounty connection

send questions or comments to  
[shaunieka.taste@gwinnettcounty.com](mailto:shaunieka.taste@gwinnettcounty.com)

Gwinnett County Communications Division  
75 Langley Drive • Lawrenceville, GA 30046  
770.822.7180 • [www.gwinnettcounty.com](http://www.gwinnettcounty.com)

Questions about your water bill? Call 678.376.6800.

Follow the CTP's progress on Facebook:  
Gwinnett County Comprehensive  
Transportation Plan

## ELECTIONS

### Register to vote in the May 24 election

The General Primary/Nonpartisan election will take place on **Tuesday, May 24**. The deadline to register to vote and be eligible to cast a ballot in the election is **Tuesday, April 26**.

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, and at least 18 years old by Election Day. You may not register to vote if you are currently serving any sentence imposed by the conviction of a felony or judicially determined to be mentally incompetent.

Registered voters may request an absentee ballot by mail, or cast their ballots in person from **May 2 – 20**, 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 May 7 and May 14.

In addition, satellite offices will be open May 14 from 8:00am to 5:00pm and May 16 – 20 from 9:00am to 7:00pm at Bogan Park Community Recreation Center in Buford, Dacula Park Activity Building in Dacula, George Pierce Park Community Recreation Center in Suwanee, Lenora Park Activity Room in Snellville, Lucky Shoals Park Community Recreation Center in Norcross, Mountain Park Activity Building in Stone Mountain, and Shorty Howell Park Activity Building in Duluth. For more information about voter registration and advance voting, visit [www.gwinnettelelections.com](http://www.gwinnettelelections.com).

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Police hosts annual Multicultural Festival

The third annual Gwinnett Multicultural Festival will take place **Saturday, April 30** from **11:00am to 3:00pm** in the Gwinnett Place Mall parking lot near the Tandy Key Lane entrance (between the old JC Penney and Belk stores).

The free event offers families the opportunity to see the services provided by the Gwinnett County Police Department and interact with officers. In addition to meeting officers from various units such as Animal Welfare and Enforcement, CSI, and the DUI Task Force, families can enjoy cultural performances, food vendors, and kids' activities such as a rock wall, dunk tank, and inflatables.

For more information, please call the Crime Prevention Unit at 770.513.5119.



## PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

### Be a pollution preventer!

In Gwinnett County, our stormwater and sanitary sewer systems are completely separate.

The sanitary sewer system collects wastewater from homes and businesses, and delivers it to our water reclamation facilities, which treat the water to state standards before releasing it back into surface waters.

The stormwater system, on the other hand, is not connected to the sanitary sewer and not sent to the water reclamation facility. Instead, storm drains collect rainwater runoff and convey it directly to our waterways. This helps prevent localized flooding, but it also means that stormwater can be a source of pollution. Runoff generated during rain events can pick up pollutants as it flows across roads, parking lots, and sidewalks. This runoff and any collected pollutants will then enter our rivers, streams, and creeks through the stormwater drainage system.

We need your help to make sure that nothing other than stormwater goes down storm drains. Cleaner surface waters lead to better public health and lower water treatment costs downstream. Under the *Illicit Discharge and Illegal Connection Ordinance*, it is illegal to put anything other than stormwater into a storm drain. Automotive fluids, soapy car wash water, pesticides, pet waste, and even yard clippings need to be kept out of the stormwater conveyance system, which includes storm drains, gutters, and ditches.

If you see someone discharging anything into a storm drain, please call the Gwinnett County Department of Water Resources at 678.376.7193 so we can provide education on preventing water pollution.

Don't forget to attend our free workshop!

## TAX COMMISSIONER

### Senior emission exemption

If you are age 65 or older; are a registered owner of a vehicle 10 model years old or older; and drive less than 5,000 miles a year; you may be eligible for an emission inspection exemption. Apply online at [www.cleanairforce.com](http://www.cleanairforce.com) or at a Gwinnett County tag office. For locations, please visit [www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com](http://www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com).

## CHECK IT OUT

Check out these listings to get your garden growing this spring. You can find them at your nearest Gwinnett County Public Library branch, [www.gwinnettpl.org](http://www.gwinnettpl.org).

*Urban Gardening for Dummies*, by Paul Simon

*Attracting Beneficial Bugs to Your Garden: A Natural Approach to Pest Control*, by Jessica Walliser

*Blue Ribbon Vegetable Gardening: The Secrets to Growing the Biggest and Best Prize-Winning Produce*, by Jodi B. Torpey

*The Urban Gardener*, by Matt James

Department of Water Resources • Free Workshop!  
**Water Wise Landscaping**

May 10, 2016 • 7:00pm – 8:30pm  
Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center  
Conference Room C  
75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville

A water wise landscape has been carefully designed, installed, and managed to maximize water efficiency.

Any landscape, whether new or well established, can be made more water efficient by carrying out a few simple steps. Learn tips to transform your yard into a water wise landscape, saving you money and maintenance time. All participants will receive a free outdoor water efficiency kit.

Presented by: Robert Brannen  
Gwinnett Extension Service

Pre-register by emailing your name and address to [dwrconserve@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:dwrconserve@gwinnettcountry.com) or by calling 678.376.7126.