

gwinnettcounty CONNECTION

a monthly publication of **gwinnettcounty** government

MARCH 2016

main streets
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GWINNETT

Chairman Nash pictures 2040 in State of the County

In her sixth annual State of the County speech delivered on February 18, Board of Commissioners Chairman **Charlotte Nash** reflected on present-day accomplishments but also looked ahead 24 years to imagine Gwinnett County in 2040.

The surprisingly warm day outside the Infinite Energy Center matched her mood inside as Nash painted a picture of the future for Gwinnett's many main streets of the county. Her vision included a thriving entertainment district centered on Satellite Boulevard at Sugarloaf Parkway, an international business hub at Gwinnett Place, and the next Hollywood along Jimmy Carter Boulevard.

Nash said, "We want to have areas in the county that appeal to all age groups and that offer attractive locations for businesses of all sizes and types. As we create the future, however, we can't neglect the needs of today. We have to keep the fundamentals of Gwinnett's success strong and relevant every day." She outlined what she called basic building blocks of a successful community including schools, public safety, water, transportation, parks, greenspace, and libraries. She thanked Gwinnett voters for "three decades of support for SPLOST" programs that "helped ensure that success continues to live here."

Watch the
2016 State of the County
address now!



AROUND GWINNETT

County hosts annual networking event for potential vendors

The Gwinnett County Purchasing Division will host the 10th annual Supplier Symposium on Thursday, **April 21** at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center, 75 Langley Drive in Lawrenceville. The symposium provides vendors with an opportunity to meet buyers and contracting officers in Gwinnett County and other metro Atlanta agencies. Potential vendors may drop in between **8:30am and 11:30am**. To register for this free event or view current projects open for bidding and explanations of bidding procedures in Gwinnett County, visit the Purchasing Division's webpage at www.gwinnettcounty.com.

Gwinnett hosts free recycling event to celebrate Earth Day

Join the Gwinnett County Solid Waste and Recovered Materials Division for the annual Earth Day celebration and recycling event on Saturday, **April 9** from **9:00am to noon**. The event will take place at Coolray Field, home of the Gwinnett Braves, and will offer paper shredding, electronics recycling, tire recycling, and paint collection. Restrictions apply for recycling and paint collection; visit www.sustainablegwinnett.com for details. Also, please bring your gently used or old sneakers to be donated to those in need or recycled. Stick around for free kids' activities, touch-a-truck, and to meet your haulers.

If you would like to volunteer for this event, please visit www.volunteergwinnett.net to sign up. For more information, visit www.sustainablegwinnett.com.



FOCUS ON: Capital Projects Section

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 County Capital Projects Section, which manages the construction and renovation of County facilities. To read more, please visit www.gwinnettcounty.com.

Pay your water bill with your smartphone

Visit www.gwinnett20.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.

Gwinnett County Government hosts many events, classes, and workshops for its residents. See these and more at www.gwinnettcountyevents.com.

Sewing Made Easy for Adults and Children

April 4 and April 5 • 10:00am to 1:00pm
Centerville Community Center
3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville
770.985.4713

Caregiver F.A.C.T. • FREE!

April 15 • 9:00am to 3:30pm
Gwinnett Fire Headquarters • Community Room
408 Hurricane Shoals Road NE, Lawrenceville
678.518.4845

Art on the Chattahoochee • FREE!

April 16 • 9:00am to 5:00pm
Simpsonwood Park
4511 Jones Bridge Circle, Peachtree Corners
678.277.0920

Spring Yard Sale • FREE!

April 30 • 9:00am to 2:00pm
Mountain Park Activity Building
1063 Rockbridge Road, Stone Mountain
678.277.0179

Gwinnett Multicultural Festival • FREE!

April 30 • 11:00am to 3:00pm
Gwinnett Place Mall • Between JC Penney and Belk
2100 Pleasant Hill Road, Duluth
770.513.5119

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send questions or comments to
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Gwinnett County Communications Division
75 Langley Drive • Lawrenceville, GA 30046
770.822.7180 • www.gwinnettcounty.com

Questions about your water bill? Call 678.376.6800.



gwinnettSPLOST.com

your pennies
for public safety

Gwinnett Fire remounts eight ambulance bodies

Following the success of two previous projects to save money by remounting existing ladders on new fire trucks, Gwinnett Fire and Emergency Services will save \$323,000 by remounting eight ambulances onto new chassis. Commissioners approved the project, which is being funded by SPLOST, in February.

Fire Chief Casey Snyder said the lifetime warranty on the Life Line compartment modules will be continued and the units will be refurbished to new condition with updated equipment and technology for use by emergency responders. The department had previously saved \$135,000 by reusing the aerial ladders from two old, high-maintenance fire trucks that were due for replacement.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Spring forward and change your smoke alarm batteries

When you spring forward one hour for daylight saving time on March 13, Gwinnett Fire and Emergency Services reminds you to change the batteries in your smoke alarm once a year. Use daylight saving time as a reminder to keep your home safe. Here are some tips to keep your smoke alarm working properly:

- Test your smoke alarms monthly and replace any alarm after 10 years of use.
- Make sure at least one smoke alarm is placed on each level of the house, especially outside of bedrooms and at the top of staircase landings.
- Never paint over your smoke alarms and keep them free of dust and dirt.
- Have a home fire escape plan and practice with your family members.

Learn more at www.gwinnettsafety411.com.



PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

Everyday household hazards disposal and recycling

Household hazardous wastes are items commonly found in homes that contain hazardous and harmful substances. Examples of these products include herbicides, pesticides, paints, solvents, batteries, automobile fluids, and some cleaning products. Improper disposal of these products through the stormwater drainage system—which includes, drains, pipes, and ditches—can harm the health of our rivers, lakes, and streams because these drains lead directly to surface waters. Discharges to the stormwater drainage system are considered violations of *Gwinnett County's Illicit Discharge and Illegal Connection Ordinance*. If you know of or see individuals dumping hazardous substances into storm drains, drainage ditches, or streams, please call 678.376.7193 to report the violation.

If you need to dispose of these products, it's best to give them to someone who can use them or recycle them with a participating retailer. Always be sure to consult the label for guidance concerning proper usage and disposal methods. There are many resources available where you can find the best disposal method for these hazardous wastes, including www.gwinnettcba.org/recycling and www.sustainablegwinnett.com.

Remember, if it seems like a bad idea to pour something down the sink drain, then it is definitely a bad idea to pour it down the storm drain. The stormwater drainage system is intended to direct rainwater untreated to the nearest body of water, not to serve as a trash can for household hazardous wastes. Let's work together to protect Gwinnett's water resources and keep household hazardous wastes in their place.

Don't forget to attend our free workshop!

TAX COMMISSIONER

Homestead Exemption application deadline: April 1

The deadline for the homestead exemption application for property tax is April 1, 2016. Once granted, the exemption is automatically renewed each year. Apply online at www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com.

CHECK IT OUT

Check out these listings to get your creative juices flowing. You can find them at your nearest Gwinnett County Public Library branch, www.gwinnettpl.org.

Creative Strategy: A Guide for Innovation, by William R. Duggan

The Creativity Cure: A Do-it-Yourself Prescription for Happiness, by Carrie Barron

Creativity, Inc.: Overcoming the Unseen Forces That Stand in the Way of True Inspiration, by Edwin E. Catmull

Department of Water Resources • Free Workshop!

Spring Cleaning & Household Hazardous Waste Management

April 14, 2016 • 1:00pm – 2:30pm
Gwinnett County Public Library
Five Forks Branch

2780 Five Forks Trickum Road, Lawrenceville

Come and learn tips for identifying and managing household hazardous waste in the home, as well as learning options for recycling and proper disposal at this free workshop. Attendees from unincorporated Gwinnett County, city of Lilburn, or city of Peachtree Corners may qualify for a maximum 5 percent credit toward their stormwater utility fee for the following year.

Presented by: Gwinnett Department of Water Resources, Gwinnett Solid Waste, Gwinnett Extension Service, and Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful

To register, call 678.376.7193 and press 5 or email dwrswreg@gwinnettcba.com (include name, address, and phone number).