

gwinnettcounty CONNECTION

a monthly publication of **gwinnettcounty** government

DECEMBER 2017



Gwinnett to launch celebration of its bicentennial

This December, Gwinnett County will kick off a yearlong celebration of its 200th birthday that pays homage to our history, recognizes and remembers the people who made our community great, and highlights the vision for our promising future.

From its founding on December 15, 1818, as a humble agrarian community to its skyrocketing growth to the second-largest county in Georgia, Gwinnett has had multiple milestones to celebrate.

Festivities begin December 15, 2017, with a gala hosted by the Gwinnett Historical Society, "A Frontier Affair: Prelude to Gwinnett's Bicentennial," at the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse.

The County's Communications team is video-recording remembrances and stories by Gwinnettians from all walks of life. Called "Story Vault," the recordings ensure that the county's history won't be forgotten. To schedule a session to tell your unique story about Gwinnett County, call 770.822.7180.

Events throughout the year include lectures, bus tours, dances, crafts, exhibits, reenactments, family campouts, and festivals. For more information, visit www.gwinnett200.com.



Ahora pueden leer Gwinnett County Connection en español a www.gwinnettcounty.com.

AROUND GWINNETT



Drop off your Christmas tree for recycling

Don't leave your used Christmas tree by the curb where it sits forever and annoys the neighbors. Bring it to the annual Bring One for the Chipper event sponsored by Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful in partnership with Gwinnett County. You can drop off natural Christmas trees between December 26 and January 15 at designated sites in Gwinnett County. The trees will be chipped into mulch for use at County parks. Select fire stations will accept trees 24/7 and other locations will accept them during regular business hours. Visit www.gwinnettcg.org to see a list of all drop-off sites or register to volunteer for the next chipping event.

Tax Assessor's Office to conduct onsite property field visits

The Gwinnett Tax Assessor's Office is conducting onsite property visits in the coming months. Field visits will be performed by a county or a contracted appraiser. During field visits, appraisers verify existing or new construction, measure exteriors, and take photographs. Residential property field visits do not require entry into buildings or assistance by the resident. Call 770.822.7200 or email taxpayer.services@gwinnettcounty.com for more information.

Gwinnett SenioR Learning Center offers computer courses

The Gwinnett SenioR Learning Center is offering computer classes for seniors ages 50 and older this winter. Seniors can register in person from 10:00am to 11:00am on January 9 at Bethesda Park Senior Center, located at 225 Bethesda Church Road in Lawrenceville, or January 11 at George Pierce Park Community Recreation Center, located at 55 Buford Highway in Suwanee. Seniors may also register online beginning December 10. For more information, please visit www.gsrlc.org or call 770.564.4699.

County offices closed for holidays

All Gwinnett County government offices, with the exception of those operations required for the comfort and safety of residents, will be closed December 22 and December 25 for Christmas and reopen on December 26. Offices will also be closed January 1 for the New Year's Day holiday and re-open January 2. A Magistrate Court judge will be available at the Gwinnett County Detention Center on both holidays. Christmas and New Year's Day are trash and recycling holidays in unincorporated Gwinnett County this year, so collections will be delayed one day for the rest of the week. To view the holiday schedule, visit www.gcsolidwaste.com.

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

2018 MLK Day Parade Honoring the Past and Empowering the Future • FREE!

January 15 • 11:00am – 2:30pm

The Fallen Heroes Memorial

Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center

75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville

678.856.7602

Uniformed Ball

January 27 • 6:30pm – 9:30pm

Gwinnett Historic Courthouse

185 Crogan Street, Lawrenceville

770.822.5450

Discover Buford Tour

January 11 • 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Buford Branch, Gwinnett County Public Library

2100 Buford Highway, Buford

770.978.5154

1-18-18: Two Become One Mass Wedding Ceremony

January 18 • 2:00pm – 4:00pm

Gwinnett Historic Courthouse

185 Crogan Street, Lawrenceville

770.822.5450

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

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Questions about your water bill? Call 678.376.6700.



gwinnettSPLOST.com

your pennies at work

Gwinnett, GCPS partner to build fire training tower

Gwinnett County Government and Gwinnett County Public Schools teamed up to build a four-story fire training tower on the campus of Maxwell High School of Technology to help current and future firefighters develop and hone skills to ensure their safety and save the lives of others.

The \$600,000 tower, funded largely with SPLOST revenue plus some school district money, will train firefighters in critical skills such as search and rescue operations, using a breathing apparatus, emergency medical care, and hoisting techniques.

Maxwell, a career-centered school, offers several programs that lead to public service jobs. In 2016, Gwinnett County Fire and Emergency Services hired 12 Maxwell graduates.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Be prepared for winter weather

The onset of winter brings invigorating temperatures and bracing breezes, but it can also carry some risk. Be winter wise, and reduce the chance of mishaps or even tragedy.

Start by having all home heating appliances serviced by a qualified technician. Check smoke alarms and practice a home fire drill to test your escape plan. Install a carbon monoxide alarm near sleeping areas. Dress appropriately and wear warm layers of clothing.

Every household should have an emergency preparedness plan. Test your plan and build a winter weather kit that includes:

- Flashlights and extra batteries
- Battery-powered NOAA weather radio and a portable AM/FM radio
- Extra food and water, such as high-energy snacks
- Extra medications
- Extra baby supplies
- Basic first-aid supplies
- Blankets, sleeping bags and extra clothing for warmth
- Fully charged cell phones

PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES



Conserve water every day, preserve our water supply

Did you know that the average person in Gwinnett County uses almost 70 gallons of water per day? With more than 900,000 residents, that means Gwinnett alone is using almost 2 billion gallons each month.

The efficient and smart use of water is essential to ensuring adequate water supply in years to come. Lake Lanier, our water source, is fed by a relatively small watershed for the number of people it serves, so our water supply is finite. Each of us can do our part to conserve water by making small changes in our daily lives to ensure adequate water for residents' use and economic growth.

Conservation can be something as easy as using a broom to clean your driveway instead of a hose, using rain barrels to collect rainwater for plants, or fixing leaky pipes.

Following outdoor water-use rules saves water — and money. Sun and wind can evaporate up to half of the water you use in your yard, which is why watering is limited to the cooler times before 10:00am and after 4:00pm. Buying native or drought-resistant plants and installing efficient irrigation systems conserve water, too.

To save water indoors, take shorter showers and turn off the water when brushing your teeth. You can install a water-efficient toilet and wait until you have a full load before running your dishwasher or washing machine.

The Department of Water Resources offers workshops on saving water, such as creating a rain barrel, fixing leaks, water wise landscaping, and creating a rain garden. To check out the 2018 workshop calendar, visit www.gwinnetth2o.com and click "Events." For more tips on how to conserve, visit www.dwrconserve.com.

Don't forget to attend our free workshop!

TAX COMMISSIONER

Tax Commissioner's Office Christmas holiday hours

On Friday, December 22, all Tax Commissioner offices will be closed for Christmas Eve except the tag offices. The Lawrenceville tag office will also be open Saturday, December 23. Then on Monday, December 25, all offices will be closed for Christmas Day. Visit www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com for online services and to view the holiday schedule.

CHECK IT OUT

Check out these reads to get you in the holiday spirit. These and more can be found at your local library branch or online at www.gwinnettpl.org.

Mr. Dickens and His Carol, by Samantha Silvia

Pride and Prejudice and Mistletoe, by Melissa De la Cruz

Homemade Holiday: Craft your Way Through More Than 40 Festive Projects, by Sophie Pester

Fix-it and Forget-it Holiday Favorites: 150 Easy and Delicious Slow Cooker Recipes, by Hope Comerford

Department of Water Resources 2018 January Water Workshops

Detention Pond Maintenance

Norcross Human Services Center
5030 Georgia Belle Court, Norcross
January 10, 2018 • 6:00pm – 7:30pm

Learn about the purpose, function, and aesthetic value of your detention pond in addition to troubleshooting tips.

Homeowner H2O

Collins Hill Branch, Gwinnett Public Library
455 Camp Perrin Road, Lawrenceville
January 13, 2018 • 11:00am – noon

Attendees will receive a low-flow home retrofit kit, an outdoor water efficiency kit, and information on how to apply for Gwinnett County's toilet rebate program.

Three ways to register

Visit: the Events page at www.gwinnettH2O.com

Email: your name, address, and phone number to dwrworkshops@gwinnettcountry.com

Call: 678.376.7193