

gwinnettcounty CONNECTION

a monthly publication of **gwinnett**county government

JULY 2017



County kicks off the summer by opening new SPLOST projects

Gwinnett County unveils three new projects this July that were funded by the voter-approved SPLOST program.

The 134-acre **McDaniel Farm Park** received \$3.4 million in upgrades for a new northeast entrance, an open play area, a picnic pavilion, a farm-themed playground, a dog park, trail extension, restrooms, landscaping, and parking.

George Pierce Park saw construction of a new \$3.2 million gymnasium with a full-sized basketball court and elevated indoor track. The basketball court will have two overlay courts for volleyball and badminton.

The **Isaac Adair House**, located next to the Female Seminary in Lawrenceville, has benefitted from \$1.07 million in improvements, including ADA accessibility to both structures, a restroom building, storage for programming supplies, landscaping, and bus parking.

Since voters first approved a Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax in 1985, the County has received more than \$3 billion in revenue for roads, parks, public safety, libraries, senior facilities, and city projects.

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AROUND GWINNETT

Gwinnett celebrates National Park and Recreation Month

Throughout July, Gwinnett County is hosting more than a dozen events countywide to encourage people young and old to get out and play as part of National Park and Recreation Month.

To encourage people to visit Gwinnett's award-winning parks, events include dances, swim parties, concerts, hay rides, scavenger hunts, pirates, and more. Park and Recreation Month is an initiative of the National Recreation and Park Association and recognizes the many ways that parks and recreation transforms our daily lives. For more information about the many fun recreational opportunities in July, visit www.gwinnettparks.com.

New alumni added to Gwinnett's premiere citizens academy

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners recently recognized 27 community leaders for completing the Spring 2017 session of Gwinnett 101 Citizens Academy. Gwinnett 101 is a 12-week crash course in Gwinnett County Government operations. The program is aimed at developing and nurturing informed and engaged residents, students, and business owners in the county.



Keep mosquitoes at bay this summer

Don't let mosquitoes drive you indoors. To reduce the mosquito population around your home, the Department of Water Resources, UGA Extension Gwinnett, and the Gwinnett County Health Department recommend:

- Cleaning gutters to eliminate breeding areas
- Removing any standing water in trash can lids, pet feeding bowls, and flowerpot saucers
- Replacing water in birdbaths frequently
- Keeping tight-fitting screens on windows and doors

View a video on combatting mosquitoes in the on-demand section of www.tvgwinnett.com.

Save money and time...manage your water bill online

Did you know you can start, stop, and transfer your services online at www.gwinnett2o.com?

You can also make a one-time online payment, schedule a future payment, or enroll in our free Automatic Payment Advantage program. Just have your username or water account number and password ready.

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.

JapanFest

September 16 – 17
Saturday – Sunday • 10:00am – 5:00pm
Infinite Energy Center
6500 Sugarloaf Parkway, Duluth

Norcross Art Splash

October 7 – 8
Saturday • 10:00am – 6:00pm
Sunday • 11:00am – 5:00pm
Historic Downtown Norcross
65 Lawrenceville Street, Norcross

Lawrenceville Ghost Tours

August – September
Fridays and Saturdays • 8:30pm
October 1 – 31
Every night • 8:30pm
Aurora Theatre
128 East Pike Street, Lawrenceville

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send questions or comments to
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Gwinnett County Communications Division
75 Langley Drive • Lawrenceville, GA 30046
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Questions about your water bill? Call 678.376.6800.



Gwinnett, Norcross team up to build new library branch

Gwinnett County and the city of Norcross are collaborating to build a new Gwinnett County Library branch at Buford Highway (U.S. 23) and Britt Avenue.

Norcross will deed about 1.5 acres to the County. Gwinnett County, using SPLOST funds, will construct the 22,000-square-foot facility, about double the size of the current library branch in Norcross. The project will also include a 128-space parking area under the building, a pedestrian plaza, gateway stairs, a traffic circle on Britt Drive, plus streetscaping and other improvements. The current library site will be deeded to the city of Norcross.

The County will take the lead on design and construction of the library with input from the city. Parking will be dedicated for the library use during regular hours, but will otherwise be available to the general public.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Rabies cases occurring in Gwinnett, be cautious around animals behaving oddly

Rabid animals have bitten several people or pets in Gwinnett this year, and people should use caution around wild animals or animals acting oddly.

Primary carriers of rabies are bats, raccoons, skunks, bobcats, and foxes, although domestic pets can be infected as well. All pets, including indoor pets, should be current on their rabies vaccination. Experts say unvaccinated animals exposed to rabies should be euthanized immediately or strictly quarantined for six months and vaccinated a month before being released.

People should take seriously any bites by wild or unfamiliar animals and seek immediate treatment; without treatment, rabies is nearly always fatal to humans. Animal bites should be reported to 770.339.4260. For information, please visit www.gwinnettcountry.com.

Learn more at www.gwinnettsafety411.com.

PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

Maintain your septic system; don't flush money away

If your house is on a septic system, do yourself a favor and have it pumped every three to five years. A failing septic system can not only have an environmental impact with sewage backing up into your shower or flowing in your yard, it can also cost thousands of dollars to replace.

Just because you've never had an issue doesn't mean a disaster isn't on the verge of happening.

With septic systems, water and waste flow into a large tank underground. Heavier material settles to the bottom where bacteria break it down. Wastewater rises to the top where it flows through perforated, buried pipes called a drain field. Bacteria in the soil help filter the waste.

Failure occurs when solids block the tank or the drain field, or when the tank fills with solids. The wastewater backs up or overflows, allowing raw sewage to make its way to a creek or storm drain.

To prevent these impacts on your health, the environment, and your wallet:

- Pump your septic tank every 3 – 5 years
- Remember your toilet is not a trash can
- Use cleaning chemicals as directed
- Conserve water to reduce wastewater volume

Water Resources' *Homeowner's Guide to Septic System Maintenance* at www.gwinnetth2o.com provides information about septic systems, locating your system, and finding a service provider. Select *Stormwater Management* from the left-hand column, and click *Septic Tank Maintenance Information* at the bottom.



Don't forget to attend our free workshop!

TAX COMMISSIONER

Effective July 1: New tag office operating hours

For more convenient customer access, beginning July 1, the Norcross, North Gwinnett, Peachtree Corners, and Snellville tag offices will be open Monday – Friday and the Lawrenceville tag office will be open Tuesday – Saturday. All tag offices will be open 8:00am – 5:00pm. Visit www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com for details.

CHECK IT OUT

Here is some summertime reading for unwinding by the pool, at the beach, or even on the couch. These and other titles can be found at your nearby Gwinnett County Library branch, www.gwinnettpl.org.

Beach House Memories, by Mary Alice Monroe

Belle Ruin, by Martha Grimes

The Disenchantments, by Nina LaCour

A Great Catch: A Novel, by Loma Seilstad

Water Resources • Free Workshop!
Septic Tank Maintenance
 August 10, 2017 • 1:00pm – 2:30pm
 Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center,
 Conference Room C
 75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville

Learn how your system works, how to prevent problems, and how to determine when a repair is necessary. Attendees from unincorporated Gwinnett County, the city of Lilburn, or the city of Peachtree Corners can qualify for a maximum 5 percent credit toward their stormwater utility fee for the following year.

Presented by: Carolyn Simonton,
 Gwinnett County Health Department

Three ways to register:
Email: dwrworkshops@gwinnettcountry.com
Online: www.gwinnetth2o.com
Phone: 678.376.7193