

gwinnettcounty CONNECTION

a monthly publication of **gwinnettcounty** government

MARCH 2017

State of the County
TWO THOUSAND SEVENTEEN

In State of the County address, Nash lauds County's 'remarkable' achievements

In her seventh annual State of the County address, County Commission Chairman **Charlotte Nash** declared the county "remarkable" and highlighted multiple accomplishments while acknowledging future challenges.

Nash said Gwinnett's brand is one of excellence, citing its good jobs, workforce, schools, recreational opportunities, and its exemplary bond rating. She also noted innovations at the County's premier wastewater recycling plant and the coming expansion of the Infinite Energy Center as the county's signature business and entertainment district.

She added collaboration between the County and its cities is important to the Gwinnett brand of excellence.

But, she said, the County needs to explore new ways to improve mobility – including transit.

Nash reaffirmed the County's commitment to diversity and pledged to broaden its community outreach programs. She also called on people of all backgrounds and heritage to become more active and involved in their county government.

Watch the
2017 State of the County
address now!



AROUND GWINNETT

Celebrate Earth Day by shredding your personal documents!

Gwinnett County's Solid Waste and Recycling section and Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful are hosting a free paper shredding event to celebrate Earth Day!

This event will feature paper shredding on Saturday, **April 22** at Coolray Field, home of the Gwinnett Braves. The event hours are **9:00am – noon**. Residents are able to shred up to five copier boxes free of charge. For questions or to volunteer, please call 770.822.7141 or visit www.volunteergwinnett.net.



Tax Assessors Office issues real estate property Annual Notice of Assessments

State law requires that the Tax Assessor provide owners of taxable property an annual assessment notice, including property value and ownership information from the Tax Assessor's Office and estimated taxes and exemptions from the Tax Commissioner's Office. Most Annual Notice of Assessments will be mailed April 7. This is not a tax bill. It informs you of the value assessed on your property as of January 1. If you disagree with the value, you can appeal within 45 days from the date of your notice. The Tax Commissioner's Office usually issues tax bills in August or later. For more information, visit www.gwinnett-assessor.com.

Multicultural festival set for April 29

Gwinnett Police, County staff from multiple departments, and friends from across the globe will gather at the fourth annual Gwinnett Multicultural Festival Saturday, **April 29** from **10:00am to 2:00pm** in the Gwinnett Place Mall parking lot near the Tandy Key Lane entrance. Families can see exhibits and demonstrations, and meet officers. They also can enjoy cultural performances, food vendors, and kids' activities such as a rock wall and inflatables. For more information, call 770.513.5119.

Drought restrictions still in effect

We have had some rain, but Gwinnett remains in a drought response and outdoor water use restrictions still apply. For more information, visit www.gwinnettH2O.com.

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

Develop Your Business Idea

April 10 • 10:00am – 2:00pm
Norcross Human Services Center
5030 Georgia Belle Court, Norcross
678.902.5239 or 678.225.5400

Underwater Egg Hunt & Bunny Bonanza

April 15 • 9:00am – 1:00pm
Bogan Park Community Recreation & Aquatic Center
2723 North Bogan Road, Buford
678.277.0850 or 678.277.0853

Art on the Chattahoochee Art Market

April 15 • 10:00am – 5:00pm
Pinckneyville Park
4758 South Old Peachtree Road, Norcross
678.277.0920

AARP Tax Aide • FREE!

Tuesdays and Thursdays through April 18 • 9:00am – noon
Norcross Human Services Center
5030 Georgia Belle Court, Norcross
678.225.5400

Master Gardeners Association Plant Sale

April 22 • 8:00am – 2:00pm
Lilburn Library/City Hall
2817 Church Road, Lilburn
678.377.4010

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

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.



gwinnett**SPLOST**.com

your pennies
for public safety

Fire training tower coming to Maxwell High School of Technology

Gwinnett County and Gwinnett County Public Schools will jointly build a four-story fire training tower at Maxwell High School of Technology in Lawrenceville. The County SPLOST will fund up to \$530,000 with about \$70,000 from the school district.

Maxwell High School of Technology and Gwinnett County Fire Department personnel offer firefighting and emergency medical service classes. The tower will allow students and firefighters to practice emergency medical and firefighting skills in multi-story buildings, including search and rescue operations, hose advancement, and hoisting techniques. The County and the school district together will set a project timeline and choose a construction company.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Be wary of fraud this tax season

With tax season looming, scammers are trying to steal people's identities by posing as IRS agents to intimidate or trick people into giving them money or access to bank accounts.

Often, internet thieves will call, claim to be IRS agents, and in brisk, official tones, inform you that you owe taxes or back taxes and you must pay up immediately or risk jail time and substantial fines. They usually recommend a pre-loaded debit card or wire transfer for payment of bogus taxes.

Be advised that the IRS will never:

- Call to demand immediate payment using a prepaid debit card, gift card or wire transfer; generally, the IRS will first mail you a bill
- Threaten immediate arrest for not paying
- Demand payment without allowing questions or an appeal
- Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone

If you've been victimized by a scammer, please visit www.irs.gov/uac/taxpayer-guide-to-identity-theft or call 800.908.4490 right away.

Learn more at www.gwinnettsafety411.com.



PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

How to handle household hazardous waste

Did you know that many common household paints, cleaners, oils, batteries, and pesticides are hazardous or toxic to people and wildlife if they are not disposed of properly? Occasionally, these products are thrown away or dumped into the stormwater drains, pipes, and ditches, which lead directly to streams, rivers, or lakes. Household hazardous waste in storm drains can pollute the water we drink or play in, and that wildlife occupies. Fortunately, there are ways to properly dispose of or recycle these products in your household.

The first step in preventing stormwater pollution from household hazardous waste is to read and follow disposal directions on the product label. Another way is to share the product with a neighbor or family member who can use the remaining product. That way, it doesn't have to be disposed of at all. Never mix hazardous waste with other products; they might ignite, explode, or emit dangerous gases.

Many local retailers will recycle your old electronics, used motor oil, batteries, and light bulbs. For more information on how to dispose of household hazardous waste, please visit www.gwinnettcba.org/recycling or the County's recycling directory at www.sustainablegwinnett.com.

Remember, 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 678.376.7000 to report the violation.

Don't forget to attend our free workshop!

TAX COMMISSIONER

Reduce your tax bill – apply for homestead exemptions!

The best way to reduce your property tax bill is to apply for homestead exemptions. The application deadline is April 1. Apply online at GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com.

CHECK IT OUT

As you tackle your spring cleaning, check out these listings for tips on how to reclaim your home. You can find them at your nearby Gwinnett County Public Library Branch, www.gwinnettpl.org.

The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up: The Japanese Art of Decluttering and Organizing,
by Marie Kondo

Easy Home Organizer: 15-Minute Step-by-Step Solutions,
by Vicki Payne

The Joy of Less: A Minimalist Guide to Declutter, Organize, and Simplify,
by Francine Jay

Department of Water Resources • Free Workshop!

Spring Cleaning and Household Hazardous Waste

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

April 6, 2017 • 1:00pm – 2:30pm
Gwinnett County Public Library
Five Forks Branch
2780 Five Forks Trickum Road
Lawrenceville, GA 30044

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.

Pre-register by calling 678.376.7126 or by emailing your name, address, and phone number to dwrconserve@gwinnettcba.com.